CAMPAIGN 1992 - NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NOVEMBER)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs)

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From November 1992, NBC Nightly news reports of the 1992 Presidential campaign.

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[Music] good evening call it the grand finale the climax of the presidential campaign candidates in the final quest for votes one candidate in search of his voice today and the voters facing a deadline to make their decision by tuesday today once again it was a blur of activity as george bush and bill clinton flew from state to state and ross perot visited california we begin in newark new jersey and john cochran who's been following the president john garrett despite disappointing new polls taken by his own campaign president bush is trying to look like a winner the george bush who looked so passive in the second debate was nowhere to be found as he made a final appeal for votes in michigan bush is trying to project energy a feeling that he really wants to be re-elected that he really can be re-elected actually the other night in michigan governor clinton told a voter that he's already thought about what he's going to do as president he said he's going to play his saxophone in the white house and he's already planning the inauguration for parade you know hold the phone bill hold a phone we are going to show that you're not going to be in the white house and you're not going to have the parade and the press are going to be wrong about you despite bush's upbeat performance his aides are privately discouraged by their own polls they tell nbc news that michigan with its 18 votes is slipping away from bush that he is losing too many republican voters to ross perot and that in the past week clinton has regained democrats who leaned toward parole but bush still hopes he can win by pounding away at clinton's character we didn't invite that term slick willie we didn't invite it it's been a come in from arkansas it was all through the democratic primary tonight bush is in connecticut and here in new jersey two more states where he faces long odds and privately his aides say that despite bush's best efforts he may get little more than 100 electoral votes nationwide it takes 270 votes to win

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it takes 270 votes to win garrett thank you john cochran and now to wilkes-barre pennsylvania where john dancy is following bill clinton who was running hard but talking carefully today john that he is gary clinton has developed a bad case of laryngitis but his staff was upbeat despite that elated by a new poll which shows his lead widening [Music] clinton's brutal schedule he arrived in cincinnati at 4 30 this morning his schedule finally got to him the governor's voice is completely gone and he will not be able to speak clinton's allergies lack of sleep and overuse made his voice a croak bad huh it's bad we fought for a year we've got two days to go my voice will be better by this afternoon and i'll be there monday i'll be there tuesday fight on don't give up go clinton's staff says he is gargling and doing voice exercises to regain his voice before starting a final nine state swing tomorrow some of those stops will be in states where clinton is ahead in the polls we consider to be critical sites that we need to carry and that we think that one more visit will help help us cement that lead clinton's staff says despite his laryngitis he feels fine and to demonstrate it clinton tossed a football with an aid while the cameras rolled a new poll shows clinton with a seven point lead over bush it has given the clinton campaign a spark going into the home stretch um it's encouraging but we're certainly not going to put it in the bank yet we're going to spend the last 30 hours hitting 10 cities and campaign as hard as we can by

late afternoon in pennsylvania where he's comfortably ahead pleasant had begun to regain his voice on tuesday we will win a new day for america but it is still weak and raspy heading into tomorrow's final push clinton's strategy for this final push is to revisit states like new jersey where he'll be tonight new jersey has

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where he'll be tonight new jersey has 15 electoral votes clinton has been there seeking those votes already six times and right now they appear to be in the clinton camp tomorrow he'll head out across the industrial midwest the south and the west states where he hopes to find the margin of victory thank you john and now let's go to jim cummins who's in long beach california where ross perot was campaigning today trying to hold on to his supporters jim eric ross perot has not lost his voice he's still talking to these people here in california his message to them is this ignore the posters get out the vote and watch me on tv [Applause] the polls show that many perot supporters up to a third of them in some surveys now say they might vote for one of the other two candidates perot who had concentrated his fire on bush until now blasted both of his opponents before a big crowd in long beach today this is a decent man who was responsible for deregulation in the 1980s as vice president he had the responsibility for what became the banking and savings and loan disaster now if you can take another one of those hey did anybody out here get any benefits from that disaster [Music] [Applause] now the fastest growing industry in arkansas and one out of five jobs created in the last several years is in the chicken industry before today perot seemed reluctant to criticize clinton that's obviously changing tonight in a new 30-minute broadcast perot scrutinizes the clinton record in arkansas and then questions clinton's ability to lead the country he has never held a civilian job he is running a company that if you put it on the fortune 500 list in terms of its annual budget it ranks below toys r us and chiquita brands will be all over prime time tv tonight and tomorrow night he will give his last campaign rally in dallas

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campaign rally in dallas texas is our delegate rich state and his supporters could be the swing votes in that state gary thanks jim cummins and we'll have more news as we continue continuing our coverage of the election let's look now at congress and the house of representatives of course all the seats are at stake and one-third are in the senate when the votes are counted it seems certain that the democrats will continue to control congress they may actually increase their 14-vote margin in the senate but their 100-seat margin in the house is expected to drop the big change is the number of new faces will be there what is surprising about congress is how many members are getting out in the house of representatives 66 members are stepping down more than in any election since world war two another 19 lost in primary elections more women than ever are trying to get into congress 11 in the senate and at least three are expected to win 106 women including incumbents are running for the house more than one-third of them are expected to make it never before have so many blacks run for congress 51 are in races for the house at least two-thirds of them are leading in their contests most of the newcomers will be coming from southern states 30 hispanics are trying for house seats as well and more than half of them are expected to win over on the senate side several incumbents are vulnerable they include packwood of oregon seymour of california caston of wisconsin glenn of ohio as well as spectre of pennsylvania d'amato of new york sanford of north carolina and hollings of south carolina all are running in very tight races or trailing in the polls and what's in a candidate's name well just ask this illinois republican who is challenging 17 term democratic congressman dan rostankowski elias zenkich is his name or as it will

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elias zenkich is his name or as it will appear on the ballot elias non-incumbent zen kitsch it's not likely that the middle name will help zen kits rostonkowski is expected to win his 18th term but but what will all the new members of the new congress actually mean will anything change in the way congress works and performs for the voters odetta rogers is at the capitol this evening odetta garrick both parties agree the new congress comes in under intense public scrutiny when the 102nd congress adjourned last month even lawmakers admitted they didn't accomplish most of what they'd hoped to it was a session bogged down with scandal

and gridlock i think there may be a lot less gridlock in the next congress regardless of whether president bush is elected or governor clinton to get this economy turned around and get our country moving again if we can do that then i think the anger and hostility which people now have will be lessened as an anti-incumbency mood sweeps the nation the new members of congress will have to quickly prove to voters that they're a new wave of politicians ready to get the job done one of the top challenges facing the new congress jump starting the economy the republicans have traditionally done this through tax cuts and deregulation the democrats through government spending for example creating jobs programs re-labeled investment strategies the new congress must also tackle the growing deficit which has nearly quadrupled under presidents reagan and bush and the skyrocketing cost of health care and the growing number of americans without health insurance house speaker foley thinks the new congress will get down to business and i think that we'll see this new congress a very important and significant one and one anxious to to act quickly and responsibly on the issues facing the country lawmakers traditionally start working on how they'll tackle the issues in december but this year they're expected to start right after election day both

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right after election day both bush and clinton have pledged to work with the congress before they're sworn in garrick thank you odetta and then there is the third branch of government which is also at stake the courts federal judges don't run for election we know that but they will be appointed by the man who does win on tuesday star jones our law correspondent is with us this evening star how many federal judicial appointees are still out there to be made well whoever wins the presidency on tuesday is going to have quite an inauguration president waiting on him it looks like there's a hundred seats that are still waiting to be filled the president submitted 51 names but in a little bit of election year delay the senate judiciary committee declined to act on him at this point so they're all out there 100. those hundred seats or so how important is that in the grand total of federal judgeships compared to the last 12 years that have been filled actually reagan and bush have together appointed about 70 percent of all the sitting justices in the federal judiciary right now so as you start to look at who's going to be moving the court in one direction or the other the president clear clearly has the um the edge on that all right let's talk about the supreme court how many vacancies would you think will be having in the next four years between one and two vacancies usually come up in each presidential term should know that six of the nine sitting supreme court justices have been nominated by the last two administrations so you do have three judges who ages are over 70 years old stevens white and blackmon and justice stevens and justice o'connor have both been ill lately so it could be anywhere from one to four justices of course one vote switch could affect the case such as roe versus wade the big abortion issue but if bill clinton is elected president what do we know about his appointees we know that he's going to be looking towards minorities and women probably to increase their numbers in the federal judiciary though bush has nominated between 18 and 19 women he's nominated about 10 clinton's indicated he's going to do better than that thank you very much star jones for being with us this evening

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evening and we'll have more news as we continue in a moment the presidential campaign the candidates are under tremendous pressure tired stressed nervous what's it like to be in their shoes well let's hear from someone who went through that ordeal former president gerald ford who was in palm springs california this evening good evening mr president hello garrick how are you very well tell us what was it like because there you were an incumbent president like george bush running against a southern governor the last 48 hours trailing in the polls what went through your head you always have to be optimistic eric as you know i started 35 points behind behind i ended up losing by less than two percentage points and at this time in the campaign 16 years ago we were about where george bush is today and when you see those polls and surveys you have to feel that a little extra effort is going to make a difference and it might uh win the election you need that extra bit of adrenaline obviously and george bush as bill clinton and ross perot have been showing that in these last uh in these last several days but as far as the campaign and you've been observing it has the public been served the new way the candidates have been using television for example garrick i think this campaign has gotten much too personal between all three of the candidates i i do think

some of these interviews on television which are new can be helpful at least the people i talk to tell me that they have enjoyed the give and take with interviewers i do think there's been too much jumping from one city to another

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city to another the strain the pressure on candidates to have the enthusiasm and to know the problems in each state that's an awfully heavy chore for anybody regardless of how old you are you regret many of the personal attacks that have been made the race has really become between individuals rather than parties you don't hear much about the republican party the democratic party the labels are no longer there do you regret that i think that's most uh unfortunate because truly to run a government you have to have more than personalities you have to have two major political parties with the white house in control of one party in the uh congress uh in control of one or the other uh political parties are vitally important in our political process in america well the parties the parties are certainly important i think and uh we'll see which party as well as which man wins come tuesday mr president gerald ford thank you very much for being with us this evening thank you karen and we'll have more news in just a moment and now we are getting close to the finish line the vote itself not much time for those who are still undecided to make up their minds and the first place voters will have to decide is in a small community in new hampshire with only 29 registered voters dixville notch is its name and every four years it gets national attention fred briggs shows why this is dixville notch in northernmost new hampshire not many people around here this time of year summer is over and the ski season is a month away so the town's main industry the huge balsams resort is temporarily closed dixville notch is the balsams its residents own manage maintain and work here they also vote here in presidential years before anyone else does certainly somebody in new hampshire

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does certainly somebody in new hampshire had to be first new hampshire was holding the first primary one minute past midnight tuesday morning the voters will have their say each has their own voting booth reserved and speaking of reservations i've kicked it around i've kicked it upside down i'd have no idea who i'm going to vote for i don't think either bush or clinton deserves to be president i'm concerned about both of them we spoke with about one-fourth of the electorate a lot of unmade up minds here like everyone's saying uh if there would be another person i get a feel from the whole country that they wish there was another choice well there's ross perot they're talking a lot now about him shooting himself in the foot of all he did was tell the truth without embellishing it dixville notches early voting started in 1964. since 1980 it's picked the winner every time does this mean as usually republican dicksville notch goes so goes the nation i'd like you to predict how you think it's going to come out tuesday at 1202 am the majority of the voters will vote for bush i think bush is going to get uh 15 or 16 clinton will get four to five and perot probably the rest that would be eight to ten votes most of them said the same thing but they also said they don't like being predictable they do have until tomorrow night after all fred briggs nbc news dixville notch new hampshire and on tuesday from nixville notch until the last voting booth closes 24 hours later in alaska it's estimated that 90 million people will vote perhaps even more and a few of those votes a very few will be cast for the first time by fax machine yes some states are allowing faxed ballots for absentee voters technology's latest contribution to democracy i'm garrett gutley tom broke will be reporting tomorrow night from nbc's election central good night for nbc news 92 our election headquarters and with just a few twilight hours left in this long and

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hours left in this long and unconventional presidential campaign all three candidates are looking for votes at cross-country rallies or through paid television and judging from the latest run of polls the heaviest pressure at this hour is on president bush a sunday poll of most likely voters by nbc news in the wall street journal shows an eight-point clinton lead cnn and usa today have the arkansas governor up by the same spread abc a seven-point margin ross perot is in the mid-teens in all three polls nbc's andrea mitchell who's been on the clinton campaign from the beginning still is on the job tonight john cochran is with the president in houston

but the president will be arriving later andrea the clinton people are confident but they're not taking it for granted at this hour tom the journey bill clinton began 13 months ago when he announced his candidacy in little rock is now down to one endless final day one more day it's a good thing because his voice was all but gone as he started a 4 000 mile trek to try to nail down key states like pennsylvania actually clinton's final day of campaigning started after midnight at new jersey's garden state racetrack where a long shot named bubba clinton came in first last week [Music] clinton is anything but a long shot his campaign is confident despite a harsh new attack by ross perrault ross pros and men have promised not to practice politics as usual he's practicing politics as usual leaving nothing to chance clinton will have hit nine cities in eight states on his final 27 hour quest we need to carry every state we're visiting and if i work all day long maybe that will increase the likelihood that people that are supporting our ticket will vote tomorrow after a year of speeches his message has been boiled down to this never forget never forget in this last day what this last year has been about a fight between hope and fear 10 40 a.m cleveland clinton believes he has a good chance in ohio which usually goes republican

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goes republican i'm hopeful and determined you know i'm just thinking about you know i take this race one day at a time and to those who are still trying to make up their mind to ask them to go with us it's a political deal he looked political last night on this last trip clinton refused to attack his opponents trying to deliver a more positive message and i am going to work as hard as i can to challenge you to assume responsibility to build a new future and then to empower you to seize control over your own destiny that's what this election is all about 1pm romulus michigan outside detroit clinton has campaigned so much in michigan that he jokes about taking up residence his voice almost gone hillary clinton has been pitching in we'll have to be real quiet to be able to hear him if you will be my voice tomorrow i'll be yours for four years feeling that his goal is almost within reach clinton is now trying to lift his sights beyond the attack politics of the campaign to the mandate he'll need if he wins and actually has to govern tom thank you andre now let's go to john cochran who's awaiting president bush tonight in his adopted state of texas john tom bush's top aides publicly at least are trying to sound optimistic ignore the polls they say because the undecideds are breaking our way the president is speeding through six states and he will need undecided voters in each of them starting with new jersey which his aides privately give him one chance in four of winning bush continues to blame part of his uphill fight on the news media every one of you know that there has not been objectivity in the coverage and everyone knows that they're covering up the fact this has been the most biased year in the history of presidential politics bush feels the media gave too much coverage to new evidence linking him more closely to the arms for hostages deal with iran bush's aides say he was gaining about a point a day in the polls until the iran contra story broke on

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until the iran contra story broke on friday then he hit a brick wall in the polls his aides say he has virtually no chance at all in pennsylvania his second stop today an era of resignation has hit some in the bush camp apparently including dan quayle who says only that he and bush will be competitive have courage my friends bush's aides say he was nostalgic today but only because this is his last campaign they say he still expects to win it is doable and we're gonna do it bush does feel he has a solid shot at ohio here is elsewhere bush noted that saddam hussein plans to hold a victory party if clinton wins well saddam put it on hold old fella because we are going to make you live up to every resolution passed by the united nations late today bush headed south to kentucky before heading on to louisiana two more tough states for him and at times he looked like he is ready for this campaign to be over for him it all ends tonight with a rally here in houston and his friends say that regardless of what happens elsewhere winning his home state texas would mean a lot to him tom thank you john cochran nbc's lisa myers tonight is with the perot campaign and lisa perot spent 60 million dollars and he seems to have enjoyed every last dime well he certainly did today tom others may have more support but no candidate had more fun today than ross perot he threw he threw what may be remembered as the most original rally in modern political history see i've got a theme song for our campaign

and here it comes just listen to it we're crazy only ross perot the spontaneity and imagination which set him apart were in overdrive at his final rally maybe he was thrilled to have it over maybe he figured that since it cost him at least 60 million dollars he should enjoy it but enjoy he did

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perrault said if his opponents in the press want to say that he's crazy and his supporters are crazy that's just fine now don't worry folks we got buses lined up outside to take you back to the insane asylum right after this shoulder be all right parole continued to hammer away at both bush and clinton referring to clinton as the chicken man is the chicken man the best qualified man that reference comes from perot's half-hour program attacking his opponent's economic records titled chicken feathers deep voodoo and the american dream it airs again tonight during perot's two hours of network television one out of five jobs in the last 12 years created in arkansas has been created in the poultry business we'll all be plucking chickens for a living today's rally culminated a three-day five rally campaign swing during which the candidate became enthralled with the boolet of perot ears you vote for me on tuesday and you'll be surprised most of those congressmen and senators will be having air jobs so they're kind of like this for now [Applause] you got it polls show perot with the chance of winning only alaska he says the polls are crazy and under count his supporters perot's concept of victory may be different than the other candidates he says above all he wants his supporters to go to bed believing that he gave them the world-class campaign he promised tom thank you lisa let's remember however that this three-way contest will be won and lost tomorrow state by state here's what ross perot and george bush are up against bill clinton is in very good shape in these states colored red on our map including some of the biggest california new york pennsylvania illinois that's a total of 229 electoral votes george bush's base includes these states colored blue 143 electoral votes more than a third from texas and florida where bush's margin has been razor thin 270 electoral votes are needed to win

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270 electoral votes are needed to win the remaining states toss-ups ohio michigan new jersey north carolina georgia among them 166 electoral votes george bush must get three quarters of them to win this election when nightly news continues in a moment i'll talk to bill clinton president bush and ross perot declined our invitation as ross perot declined president bush accepted and then pulled out over the weekend so i spoke with bill clinton and began by asking if he's elected will he try to jump start the economy with a tax cut in government spending i think there are some things the federal government can do to stimulate the economy but i don't think it would be wise to do it by expanding the debt now conventional economic theory holds that if you reduce the debt in a hurry with a tax increase you will increase unemployment i agree with that the other conventional economic theory is that the only way the federal government can stimulate the economy is by increasing the deficit i don't agree with that because if you do it i think you'll increase interest rates and complicate our recovery so what i would expect to do is to dramatically increase investment net investment in the american economy uh with offsetting tax spending cuts elsewhere and by spending the revenue increase from raising taxes on americans with incomes above two hundred thousand dollars and on foreign corporations asking them to pay the same as american corporations i want to take that money and put it right back in to an investment tax credit and to incentives to invest in new business new technology and new job creating activity in america we have to do that governor ross bro has been pretty tough on you in the closing 48 hours of this campaign if you win would he have any kind of a formal role in a clinton administration well it's i've been kind of surprised by ross you know he said he we shouldn't criticize one another and he waited until no answers could come and he criticized it was sort of a political thing to do but i still believe that he's made a valuable contribution to this campaign first by emphasizing the need for

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first by emphasizing the need for political reform and if he's serious about that i would ask for his support in limiting the influence of political action committees controlling the cost of congressional campaign opening the airwaves to debate asking uh for more restraints on lobbyists and more disclosure i think that's important

i think it's important that we bring the deficit down and he's pointed out some areas where spending can be cut and he has a continuing and i think genuine interest in seeing a full accounting for pows and mis we're making progress there now and i would want him to feel free to advise on that but i haven't offered anybody including a single soul who works in my campaign a position and i'm not going to talk about it unless the american people make me their president tomorrow that's their decision and that's the first one governor in a little more than 24 hours we'll know the results of this long and often difficult presidential campaign you've been at this business a long time what do you think now as you look ahead to the next 24 hours and you look back over the past 13 months first i feel enormous gratitude gratitude to the american people who believed in me enough to let me keep fighting for the ideas for the changes that i think america has to embrace for those who voted for me and those who wouldn't let me die in this campaign when i went through all those tough times i feel an immense gratitude to my wife and to my staff and all the people who worked with me to keep this thing going and i feel an overwhelming sense of responsibility we did not get into these problems overnight and we won't get out of them overnight but if the american people vote for me tomorrow i can tell you this i have determined that what i owe them is the best that i have all day every day i've seen how presidents can get out of touch with the concerns of ordinary americans i'm going to keep doing town meetings keep doing interviews keep doing some bus trips but most important i'm going to do everything i can to reach out to anybody who can help make this country greater that is what i owe the american people

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that is what i owe the american people at the end of this whole thing if i had it to do over again i would do it in a heartbeat because this is what makes america forever young the idea that we can have fundamental change coming from the most unlikely sources and i think that's what's going to happen tomorrow coming up in a moment new faces in store for congress john john chancellor now with his commentary nothing radiant cloudy about this commentary john adley stevenson used to say that journalists separate the wheat from the chaff and then print the chaff here is some of the chaff from my notebooks from 1992. it's been as the president says a weird political year and a lot of what was said will be remembered ross perot made world-class a household phrase paul sangas gave us panderbear as a description of a candidate who will promise anything bimbo eruption a small classic of political verbiage came from bill clinton's campaign that one may get in the word books and i didn't inhale maybe the year's most memorable phrase someone angry with the lush life on capitol hill coined the word congress's stan meaning a far away country where they all live like pasha but the candidate who wins the award for the most remarkable use of language is mr george bush he is the man who called the nitty-gritty dirt band the knitty ditty nitty-gritty great bird the man who mystified an audience by shouting don't cry for me argentina or who said of a democratic governor quote and yes we're friends but i've respected his work for a long time ozone is a wickedly effective nickname for al gore and there was a wonderful clarity when the president spoke of bozos who don't know as much about foreign policy as his dog milly more talk like that earlier this year and mr bush might not be in trouble now tom thanks for that gotcha commentary john bush clinton perot now you're making the call if a big turnout at the polls means big

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if a big turnout at the polls means big change this is going to be a long night for president bush a crush of voters across the country and with the polls closed in the first two states there are some ominous signs for the president the polls now have closed in indiana and kentucky indiana should be very safe the territory for the president but we are not able to make a projection in that state which has voted republican every year since 1964 in kentucky they voted republican every year since 1976 still not able to make a projection there in the presidential race but in the senate race wendell ford the democrat from kentucky returns for a fourth term in washington in indiana in the senate race republican dan coats who took dan quayle's place he returns for a full term of his own dan quayle our projected winner in the indiana senate race tonight ross perot of course is an important factor but this remains a race tonight between george bush and bill clinton nbc's andrea mitchell is in little rock with bill clinton john cochran is with the president in houston john what's the mood at the traveling white house tom when a candidate is running behind in the polls late in a race his

campaign aides usually say gosh if we only had more time just one more week well no one in the bush camp is saying that they're glad it's all over including the president this was the only kind of running bush was doing today although at times it sounded like one last campaign rally bush said he still expects to win adding as he cast his vote that he is very very pleased the campaign is finished the campaign he calls the dirtiest he has ever seen as barbara bush started to vote for her husband she realized she was missing something her ballot she says she's had enough campaigning too bush's aides say everyone is exhausted including voters and that another week of campaigning would make little difference in the outcome dan quayle was back home in indiana at a cafe not exactly campaigning but not exactly

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not exactly not campaigning either all those that support us make sure you go out and vote all those that don't stay here and have coffee a bush camp seemed resigned today to whatever lies ahead hoping for an upset but not really expecting it the president looking ahead to some time off bought a fishing reel and a hunting license saying he may return to texas soon for quail hunting he also stopped at a music store to pick up some country and easy listening tapes you had the feeling he was just trying to fill up the day campaign aides are already talking about what they could have done differently they admit the republican convention was a disaster because it turned off moderates in and outside the party top republicans also wish jim baker had taken charge of the campaign in june instead of august bush aides make no apologies for the president's slash and burn language late in the campaign it may not have been presidential but they say he really had no choice he had to prove that he is a fighter that he had not already thrown in the towel tom thank you john cochran stand by there we'll be coming back to you later but we want to go now to little rock arkansas the arkansas capital has been converted into one large party site and andrea mitchell is there tonight andrea tom bill clinton is superstitious about declaring victory before the votes are counted but his welcome home today certainly felt like a victory celebration after a final 29 hours on the campaign trail clinton was welcomed home by longtime friends and staff in little rock he was exhausted emotional but not too tired to make a final appeal to the voters go out and vote for change this is your chance it was a long way from the first primary i don't know in new hampshire if i ever thought we'd be here today i had nothing to do with tactics or strategy or staff i tell you we could have switched our team for the bush team and still win zigzagging across the country all night clinton played cards between

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all night clinton played cards between airport rallies to encourage people to vote in places like texas colorado albuquerque i think new mexico should vote for four new years clinton's personal efforts were multiplied across the country today by phone banks drivers a massive effort to get people to the polls now it's in the hands of the people and whatever they decide i'm at peace and i'm profoundly grateful it's an overwhelming feeling once home clinton hugged his daughter chelsea as he waited to vote the impact of it all beginning to sink in in his tennessee hometown al gore voted before heading to little rock to join clinton but even before the polls closed the campaign headquarters was being secured by the secret service into what looked like a transition white house top strategists weren't waiting for the returns well let's put it this way i am breaking out some scotch from 1964. that's what is that huh that's 28 years if clinton wins the war room in which the team planned campaign strategy will move to washington clinton has promised quick action on tough problems jobs education cutting health care costs getting the country moving again but before what he hopes will be tonight's celebration it was time to get some sleep 30 hours if he wins clinton is expected to launch a transition team right away there won't be time for naps and he'll launch that team before he even thinks about a vacation tom thank you andrea and little rock we'll ask you to stand by as well however the final votes are counted tonight ross perot of course was not a minor character in this drama nbc's lisa myers is with the paro campaign tonight in dallas lisa tom ross perot is prepared to declare victory tonight even if he doesn't win a single state and ain't said parole believes he made a difference and that his unique campaign because of his unique campaign politics won't be the same perhaps for a very long time pearl

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perhaps for a very long time pearl showed up at his polling place accompanied by two of his daughters the youngest was casting her first vote this is kathryn's first vote so it's a big day even though perrault's campaign notified the press when and where the candidate would be voting peru could not resist the chance to grumble about reporters one last time i thought the vote was supposed to be private i guess nothing is anymore nevertheless on balance parole ended his tumultuous campaign on a high he says part of the credit for today's high turnout belongs to his hard-working volunteers i think the pro volunteers say certainly have registered a lot of people they've done a fine job so we'll uh the main thing is i'm glad everybody's participating that's the way the system's supposed to work perrault immediately headed off to his headquarters to thank the volunteers and staff some voters thanked him regardless of what happens in this election he did a good job yes callie marie hi darling how are you good to see you and eight said that regardless of tonight's results parole does not have a regret in the world asked his greatest contribution well i brought all the crazy people together how's that that ought to i don't research we had a good time we had a good time in fact perrault had such a good time he's likely to remain part of the political landscape and aide said today that his volunteer organization will continue and i doubt we'll have to twist any arms to get mr perot's position on key issues if we've learned one thing this year tom it's that ross parole loves the limelight and he loves to be a player we're joined now by tim russert who's our washington bureau chief moderator of meet the press tonight's political analyst for nbc news he's there and john cochran is still in houston andrea mitchell is in little rock lisa myers is in dallas tonight let's begin with you andrea mitchell what about the clinton people or if they win what are their transition plans if they win well they are very superstitious but they already do have a

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superstitious but they already do have a fairly sophisticated and extensive transition team they've been getting thousands of resumes from all around the country and while clinton hasn't said so publicly i think he's got a pretty good idea of what kind of cabinet choices he wants i think he's going to be looking a lot to state and local officials including governors and former governors and members of congress if they win he's also going to be meeting very quickly with congressional leadership he knows that time is short to get his kind of ambitious program off the ground it's a tough program and he's going to need to really dominate congress rather than be pushed around by congress and john cochran the president has said that if he wins he'll meet immediately with the new members of congress has he given any thought at all to his life if he loses well he's certainly not talking about it publicly but his aides have frankly the same opinion that i do that if george bush loses he'll certainly take the high road i think tonight we would see one of the most gracious concession speeches in history i think we would see the george bush we saw in his inaugural address the one who talked about a kindergarten america about bringing us all together he has been invited by boris yeltsin to come to russia in december one thing he could do is say okay i'll go to moscow and i'll take bill clinton with me bill i'd like you to get to know boris he could stop off in britain on the way introduce clinton to uh the prime minister of britain make some other stops along the way no one's telling me that that's just the sort of dramatic gesture that george bush might do to show that he really wants to help bill clinton now well john we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves with travel augur with conclusions here let's ask tim rusher right now what we should be watching for this evening in terms of the key groups of voters tim tom one simple group called white voters no democrat has carried white voters in a presidential election since 1964. two important subgroups catholic ethnic voters primarily in michigan ohio new jersey pennsylvania and independent suburbanites all across the country if bill clinton can tap into those two groups he will be the next president united states and lisa myers whoever wins tonight do you expect that ross perot will be knocking at the white house door come january 21st and saying i have an idea i want to get under the hood and help you fix it yes i think

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hood and help you fix it yes i think that the next president is going to hear more from ross perot than he would like certainly by by even spring right now i think ross perot sees the future as the best of all possible world he gets rid of reporters challenging him and scrutinizing him on the issues and he has a forum from

which to speak on a variety of issues so i would expect to hear a great deal from ross perot in the months ahead all right let me ask you then tim russert as everybody else listens in do you expect it we'll have a flurry of activity out of washington come january 20th whether it's bush or clinton and a new congress absolutely tom the the one thing that people have spoken on tonight is that they want action i think the first hundred days of bush's second term or clinton's first will be an extraordinary one to watch all right thank you tim russert lisa myers henry mitchell john cochran will be hearing from you throughout the evening here on decision 92 we'll be back with more on nightly news in a moment [Applause] [Music] the primaries the conventions the debates the polls the attack ads the whistle stops the bus capades all gone and as the commotion dies down and the voting and the counting begins what remains of course are the voices of the american voters as he has all year our national correspondent bob kerr has been listening to them voting we do it alone yet really we do it together it's a community event with national impact this shared experience is unlike the super bowl or the miss america contest in this one we decide who wins it does make you feel like you are having an input i'm pretty proud of voting actually and now i have to go to school and go to work it's not easy for some to get around in the chilly autumn rain but most say it's worth it because they say there's so much at stake i guess my future's on the line

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future's on the line to on my mind today because i'm in my mid-20s and the futures of the next generations are on my mind because i think that if we don't have some progress shortly then we're in real big trouble here one of the major things that this campaign has done is made the politicians aware that the people want change and we're not going to put up with all these the conniving that's been going on for all these years so i hope that my vote will help to do that hope is a word we heard all over the country today voters told us they had higher hopes for the candidate they supported than for a system plagued by gridlock i hope the new regime if it is the new regime that gets in can straighten our situation out it's going to take some time we did not find a lot of ross perot voters today but we did find a lot of people who said perot was the best thing about the campaign i think ross perot has really enabled us to learn a whole lot more than we would have normally just going with just the two-party system as it were in the past no offense to perot i'm not voting for pro but when he stepped in and said let's focus on the issues i think it it caused a threat for the other two candidates to really focus on that even voters still searching for specifics at the last minute told us they appreciated this year's new emphasis on talk show campaigning the coverage the media exposure you know you can learn if you listen to it you can find out if you listen to enough of them somebody will eventually ask to ask the question you want the answer to i think that there was enough media coverage on each candidate and what they stood for so i feel i have an opportunity to really make an intelligent decision and no one no one we met believes that his or her taxes won't soon go up no matter who wins the election i'm willing to pay higher taxes if the money is used to try to solve problems in the country it could be wisely spent to solve the country's problems i'm not convinced that it will be of course i don't want to pay more taxes but i know i'm going to have to pay more taxes

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taxes because of the budget i mean the deficit yet many we met in these lines today told us their votes had much less to do with the short term than with the future how you going to look to make sure that this child you know my child has a place in the future that's what i'm concerned about you know i make sure you know i only have so long to live but she got a lifetime bob kerr nbc news washington [Music] tomorrow nightly news we'll take a look at the future and how the winner of the white house is going to deal with the issues most important for voters today here's a short shot now john chancellor with tonight's commentary john thank you if you thought this election was driven by the state of the economy you were right we've been looking over the results so far of our poll of voters a survey taken as they came out of polling booths across the country and the voters say overwhelmingly that their primary political concerns this year were the state of the economy and the employment situation jobs the deficit and the subject of health care were also high on that list and fairly low in our sample were two issues pushed hard by the bush campaign taxes and family values all our figures aren't in but the data we have as of now show that only 13 percent of our samples cited taxes

republicans emphasize taxes as one of the main issues but not many voters agree almost 8 in 10 voters in our sample say they think the condition of the economy is either poor or not so good and by a wide margin voters gave the president bad marks on his handling of economic problems and when we ask what qualities mattered most in the candidates change beat experience by two to one the democrats will continue to control the congress and our sample of voters overwhelmingly wants the congress and the president to be of the same party which is another piece of bad news for the republican campaign all in all tom these preliminary numbers show that many voters did not go along

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show that many voters did not go along with the republican agenda during this campaign thank you very much john we'll be talking more about that during the course of the evening you know exit polls noisy crowds long lines of voting booths that's the stuff of elections in big cities i'm in small towns throughout in the country nbc's roger o'neill tonight is in lusk wyoming for a different look at it all roger how are you doing i'm a little bit cold down but otherwise we're doing just fine you know governor bill clinton's been talking an awful lot about change well there was big change on the wyoming prairie today there was a blizzard and windshield temperatures of below zero but then this part of the country has always been pretty hostile to the white man this is one of wyoming's oldest voting precincts it's a one-room schoolhouse on the old hat creek stage run anybody within 500 square miles of here still comes here to vote a lot of people did today they first held their election in 1878 you know what not a whole lot has changed come on in i'll show you around vinya can you see it all over there still about still about 45 minutes till we open and there's a lot of tradition here so precisely at 7 a.m the election judge does what state law says she must do the polls are now open with only 87 registered voters in this vast precinct there's never a rush to get to the polls as cold as it gets out here though it does take a special effort to vote melvin thayer drove down 15 miles of dirt road to get here he always takes the old 48 when there's an important chore to do it always starts and that's his dog lady in this part of the country election day is an event this is quite a a close community everyone pitches in everyone helps election day is fun it's a social time hi everybody here's the sloppy joes

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rancher bill francis had to drive some cattle today along the way he stopped to vote windy and well diggers lunch in the con dyke yes there that's a nice way of saying it's really cold besides being a place to vote a place to warm up a place to get a cup of coffee this precinct has other useful functions for that cowboy on the trail [Music] people do take their voting seriously out here tom 97 of the registered voters will vote today and this is a bright spot for george bush he'll get most of the votes but otherwise he can come here and he'll be happy tom thank you very much roger o'neill tonight outside of lusk wyoming the first election i ever covered john chancellor was in the schoolhouse just like that i went out as a 16 year old reporter in 1956 eager for the returns and they had to finish the potluck supper before i could get all the returns and there were 25 voters we didn't get them until about 10 o'clock that night the first election i covered was in chicago and that rancher in chicago would not only have voted himself but the cows would have voted too that's right we'll be back with more right after this we'll be back in just a few moments to begin our prime time election coverage and i'll be joined by the first team here tonight we'll be running fast breaks all night long brian gumbel will be covering the congress and a lot of other races well tom it should be interesting as you well know uh retirements uh defections uh demographic makeup already guaranteed the 103rd congress will be like no other we've seen before exactly what the makeup is we'll know as tonight goes on katie kirk you'll tell us why people are voting that's right for nbc national exit poll tom will be able to tell you why people are voting the way they are what do they care about the economy trust we're also going to be looking at some important ballot initiatives that people are considering considering all across the country and this is not the first three-man race that john chancellor has covered he covered teddy roosevelt we all remember that and he'll be here offering a historic perspective as well i'm gonna start charging for remarks like that that's 475 for one of those if it goes back in the earlier century it's ten

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back in the earlier century it's ten dollars all right well we'll keep a projection and we'll see you in just a few moments even as america's administration bill clinton reassures financial markets and warns foreign adversaries rebuilding the american economy clinton says it won't be easy and healthcare it's right at the top of the agenda but how would it work this is nbc nightly news with tom brokaw reporting tonight from nbc news headquarters in new york good evening bill clinton was properly restrained today and president bush promised to go out with style so the transition to a new era in american politics is off to a promising start this election was historic for turnout alone to go out with style so the transition to a new era in american politics is off to a promising start this election was historic for turnout alone more than 100 million voters about 55 percent of those eligible and with almost all of the ballots counted bill clinton 43 percent george bush 38 ross perot 19 that's almost one-fifth the total better than any third candidate in 80 years now clinton built his victory with support from every region sweeping the far west northeast and new england splitting the rocky mountain and southern states there was a bush belt in the great plains but it was not enough the electoral vote 370 for clinton 168 for george bush none for ross perot it's the kind of victory any president would cherish and bill clinton is but he doesn't want to make any rash moves tonight nbc's andrea mitchell is in little rock at this hour andrea tom bill clinton's first act as president-elect was to reassure foreign leaders and financial markets that when he talks about change he does not mean instability accompanied by al gore clinton delivered a carefully worded signal of continuity in foreign policy the greatest mistake any adversary could make

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any adversary could make would be to doubt america's resolve during this period of transition equally important his message to nervous financial markets today i say to our financial and business leaders that although change is on the horizon we understand the need to pursue stability even as we pursue new growth gore and clinton had their first formal meeting with their transition team only this afternoon clinton is not ready to name his top economic or foreign policy advisors he did meet with democratic party chairman ron brown who may play a major role i am not looking for a job clearly over the next several days there will be a lot of discussions about a lot of things and i'll certainly be involved in those discussions clinton learned quickly that his life has changed forever being a candidate is tough being president-elect is even tougher a morning walk to visit old friends was cut short by a mob of tv cameras he had to duck into a car instead his mother dropped by oh wonderful andrea how are you and his friends provided a little pomp and circumstance these are the grade school and college friends have been his support system since the beginning i was happy exhausted and thinking about all the work still to be done the campaign staff that ran clinton's highly focused campaign was trying to limit expectations today i think the combination of of very frankly telling people that this won't be easy and at the same time challenging them to change their country to take their country back uh will serve to put the expectations in a proper light but clinton has given people reason to hope that he can improve their lives today the steel worker and the sonographer the teacher and the nurse had as much power in the mystery of our democracy as the president the billionaire and the governor fulfilling his promise of hope will be clinton's greatest challenge today was still for celebrating tomorrow he gets down to the hard part tom thanks andrea your colleague john cochran as you can see is back at the white house tonight where

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white house tonight where president bush returned this afternoon from texas john tom unlike public statements from the president and his top aides privately there is deep resentment and bitterness over their crushing loss what we saw in public this afternoon was a president accepting defeat gracefully as he returned to an emotional welcome from administration workers both he and his wife seemed touched by the gesture of long-time supporters maybe you didn't read the election returns it didn't work out quite the way we it but i i can think of nothing other to say than let's say let's finish this job with style let's get the job done cooperate fully with the new administration for now though it's time to recharge batteries bush heads for camp david tomorrow as to explain what went wrong campaign manager bob teeter said every time bush tried to build up speed something happened ross perot's charges of republican dirty tricks caught bush off

guard white house aides tell nbc news bush is furious with fbi director william sessions for approving a sting operation to examine perot's charges the white house also suspects but has no proof that politics was involved in the release last friday of evidence linking bush to the arms for hostages deal with iran while bush's aides are stewing over the past senator bob dole was sounding like an undeclared candidate for the 96 race after talking to ross perrault dole said he hopes perot supporters will help the republican party expand its base i want to unify the republican party to bring together a coalition that can have a real impact on national policy dole at least already has a job white house aide ron kaufman said that last night his 11-year-old daughter asked whether another white house official would now be out of a job her 13-year-old sister said dummy every adult you know is about to lose his job tom bittersweet comment john thank you throughout the campaign of course ross perot is like a pinball machine with all the whistles going and the

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with all the whistles going and the lights flashing but from moment to moment we didn't know whether he was going to run up a big score or go tilt as nbc's lisa myers tells us it was not a tilt you are not hallucinating parole was so thrilled with his showing last night that he couldn't resist being a political tease after all he won a bigger percentage of the vote than any third candidate this century other than teddy roosevelt in 1912. he carried 20 percent or more of the vote in 30 states one 30 percent in maine 29 in utah 28 in idaho and 27 in kansas and alaska parole reached out to clinton but also made it clear he considers himself and his followers a political force now the fact that we will go anywhere anytime and do anything that's good for our country to help the new administration as an organization does not mean that we will compromise our principles our integrity if clinton proposes serious deficit reduction perot could be a valuable ally but parole has a habit of giving executives advice and then getting miffed when they don't follow it and perot told his supporters they have an option if clinton doesn't deliver we always got the safety valve right we got the safety valve you can bring that old stray dog out from the oil from the dog pout again the stray dog of course is what perot calls himself today the head of perot's volunteer organization united we stand said the group will become self-supporting and may form a third party i think the basis for a third party is there as for ross perot well today he was back in the billionaire business he says for now he plans to make money instead of spending it on tv commercials lisa myers nbc news with the perot campaign in dallas of course this election reshaped congress as well

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reshaped congress as well here's how the senate democrats stand at 57 now republicans 42 that's down one but one race still undecided overall 11 new faces in the senate including four women two from california barbara boxer and dianne feinstein patty murray won in washington illinois's carol mosley brown became the senate's first black woman the new house 259 democrats 175 republicans one independent that's a net loss of nine democratic seats 109 new members that's one-fourth of the entire house when nightly news continues in a moment we'll take a look at the many challenges ahead for economic revival the latest word tonight on the nation's economic health from the federal reserve housing retail sales and construction all improving but overall economic activity is increasing only at a slow and uneven pace that news and post-election concerns on wall street helped push stocks down today trading however was active the economy of course has been the nemesis of president bush and nbc's chief financial correspondent mike jensen is here to take a look at what the chances are now for the economy mike tom bill clinton's economic advisors were working on that today but last night they were savoring the moment professor alan blinder who recommended tax incentives to get the economy moving celebrating clinton's victory the mantra of the clinton administration will be investment investment in people investment in public infrastructure and investment in private capital that's all well and good but bill clinton promised change and now people expect it in a hurry i'll give him 100 days that's about it but here's the problem 17 million americans are unemployed or forced to work part-time companies are still laying off and the government has no money to help bill clinton's plan to stimulate business and create jobs includes an

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business and create jobs includes an investment tax credit for companies a capital gains tax cut for investors in small businesses and 20 billion dollars in spending on infrastructure things like roads and bridges that could create a million jobs he'd finance it with higher taxes on the rich and on foreign corporations and big cuts in defense but all that would take months and need congressional approval so for the short term clinton's advisors have more of a hope than a plan they hope that clinton's victory will make consumers more confident spend more so factories will produce more that means more hiring so people would have more money to spend meantime clinton is being careful not to spook the financial markets he says he'll reduce the deficit gradually and he has surrounded himself with very mainstream economic advisers these people are being talked about for possible white house jobs they're mainly investment bankers and economists clinton needs to reassure investors that he's not a big spender that would send interest rates shooting up bond prices would fall and so would stocks so he's being cautious business and financial executives are not nearly as worried about clinton as they usually are about democrats they see him as moderate and pro-business tom thank you michael in reacting to jobs and wallace as the key issue in this election voters often mention the high cost of health care as well what to expect from a clinton administration there nbc signs correspondent robert brazile joan samuelson who has parkinson's disease has a very personal view of clinton's victory it may mean my life is saved instead of lost clinton has promised to lift the ban on federal funds for transplants from aborted human fetuses many scientists think the transplants could treat not just

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transplants could treat not just parkinson's but many afflictions now finally the government will be on our side working with us to try to make that progress happen the clinton administration will also change other policies that have been dictated by the anti-abortion movement and the religious right such as the banning of ru-486 the french abortion bill which shows promise as a treatment for several diseases a big change should come in the fight against aids there is not likely to be more money for aids but clinton has promised a coordinated effort and a shift in moral tone that could affect aids education and other public health efforts a less judgmental kinds of approach a more medicalized kind of approach actually will permit us to go a lot farther with many of the problems that are are sort of tearing america to pieces right now but changing the moral tone will be simple compared to fulfilling one of clinton's major campaign promises affordable health care for all americans many health economists say clinton's plans for cutting health costs are vague and insufficient the savings he has promised will take profits from insurance companies private hospitals drug companies doctors and others the special interests will throw in a great deal of money into the into the fight and they will probably do what they can to thwart health care reform health legislation is likely to be a major factor by which the clinton administration is judged if clinton and the democratic congress enact significant reform it could be an achievement comparable to the social security legislation of the 1930s robert bazelle nbc news new york healthcare of course was one of the most vocal issues of this campaign urban problems on the other hand one of the most silent so now the question how high will cities rate on the clinton agenda projects waiting in atlanta the 100 year old forsyth street viaduct remains open only because it's temporarily held up by

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only because it's temporarily held up by big steel jacks the viaduct needs replacing but there's been no money in new york city two billion dollars worth of badly needed street and bridge repairs postponed when interest groups line up to present their wish list to the president-elect financially strapped state and city governments will be up front a majority of both mayors and governors are democrats and eagerly await dealing with one of their own in the white house already today the u.s conference of mayors wrote the president-elect requesting an early meeting for cities the public works issue tops the agenda because so much needs repair and because the construction puts people to work right away jobs are created the mayors have a list of seven thousand projects they say are ready to go as soon as there's money atlanta mayor maynard jackson heads the rebuild america coalition there's no way to turn america around without turning the cities around whatever happens the cities will happen to america so we're optimistic but states are also struggling to pay for education and other programs governors association chairman roy romer of colorado

today ticked off concerns states hope to turn around the federal deficit health care costs investing in education and training states um are going to have an opportunity to come to the table in a stronger way i believe and you know it's going to provide us just a new energy and states complain loudest about costs of medicaid dictated by the federal government clinton's promised solutions but they're costly so states and cities plan to hold him to those promises robert hager nbc news washington below the presidential line on tuesday voters wrestled with a variety of state ballot issues term limits for elected officials catching on across the country on the ballot in 14 states approved in all 14. abortion rights measures in two states maryland voters approved a proposal guaranteeing the right of abortion under state law in arizona however a

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under state law in arizona however a measure to ban abortion except to save the mother's life that was defeated gay rights oregon voters rejected a proposal to officially label homosexuality as being abnormal but in colorado a setback for gays voters deciding that gays and lesbians should not be protected under state anti-discrimination laws i'm now for commentary from my partner john chancellor taking a look at why the republicans didn't run so well john tom why was the republican presidential campaign so badly handled the republicans are champions who have won five of the last seven presidential elections their candidate this year george bush had studied for eight years with the master ronald reagan the most successful campaigner since eisenhower why did the republicans lose this one well here's a theory that may explain part of their defeat reagan was a terrific campaigner because he always did what he was told to do that's how he'd been trained in hollywood walk this way mr reagan say these words then wave that flag reagan followed his instructions and always hit his marks he spent more time than any president polishing his speeches george bush used this method to win the presidency four years ago but when he got to the white to be president he refused to be reagan acting was not done the phi beta kappa from yale scorned the stagecraft of the reagan crowd it was skull and bones against the screen actors guild the president thank you very much would do it his way this theory would explain why the bush effort this fall seemed off course why the republican convention was so unhelpful to the president's cause why the campaign seemed to lurch from issue to issue the professionals couldn't control the candidate and at the end george bush was out there on his own shrill and frantic the gentleman who got in trouble because he ignored the hired help tom america close up tonight the voters spoke on election day loudly

01:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=4200s)

the voters spoke on election day loudly and we found them still sounding off today about hopes fears about the future change to lower the deficit and bring jobs back to the american people and make america a strong society again that the economy will turn around and that that it will be felt at the level where we deal and that's the level of the the the working poor hopefully what the president the new president will do is to address these problems in a connected way rather than just sort of a scatter shot approach i'm very excited because i i really want to see a day when i don't have to worry about those patients and i don't have to worry about the last time they leave the office knowing they're not going to be able to get back here because uh because they have no insurance well i just hope it'll be a more positive attitude in the uh you know spirit of the country lowering the taxes so there ain't so much taxes because my mom knew she'd never have to work now she does well i would hope that the new administration would stick to their work and actually try and do the things that they said they were going to do when they got in office i'm feared that middle class and upper class income tax is going to go right through the roof not simply the homeless of which there are millions not simply the destitute which there are millions but those people working hard two people in the household working hardly making wondering what's going to happen next i'm afraid that uh the economy is such a big problem and there are other problems that are so severe that they just can't be solved within a four-year time block another jimmy carter and it's going to take another 10 years for the republicans to recover from what he you know what the democrats will probably do and then old bush will come back look in his lips in four years seeing saying i told you so i guess i fear the racial divisions that no one talked about in

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divisions that no one talked about in this campaign that scares me i think that what happened in los angeles could be the first of a series of problems and my prayer is that the kind of language that president clinton used to draw people together will be something that he'll be able to continue because i think he really means it i'm just literally scared about these people i mean the president because he don't have any experience the democratic party is a lot like giving um a case of beer and and throwing the car keys to a bunch of teenage boys i think that the congressman will realize that we that our vote counts and that we're going to go out in droves when we don't like the situation the way it is this is a once-in-a-generation election the kind that happened in 1932 and 1960 we have a huge mandate for change 100 million people voted most of them voted for change einstein before he died said everything in the world has changed everything since the atom was split except one thing the way we think and we have to think anew freshly now of course we'll be hearing a lot about the first baby boomer administration two young men in their mid-forties running the country shaping the world almost thirty years after the death of john f kennedy his political offspring reclaimed the legacy and relished the responsibility and like john f kennedy before them they've excited a new generation of american voters that alone is a promising beginning for we need all the help we can get that's not the news for wednesday i'm tom brokaw i'll see you again tomorrow night days now but already he's being forced to deal with major developments on several fronts boris yeltsin the beleaguered president of russia was on the telephone today the bush administration has threatened to start a trade war with europe and then of course there's the question of who clinton wants to take to washington and what he'll do when he gets there nbc's andrea mitchell tonight in little rock andra

01:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=4441s)

rock andra tom there was no shortage of advice for bill clinton as he decides what kind of white house he wants to run clinton was a study in transition today attending a meeting on the state budget reading briefing books on how to set up a national government while he's made no final decisions about who will head his transition long-time friend bruce lindsay will be a major player one of clinton's first problems may be an escalating trade war with europe the u.s just raised tariffs on some european products 200 percent i don't want to comment on i'll review it we got one president he has to make those decisions i don't want to get in the way of them tell us what your next steps are what are your next ones well we're putting together the transition team and i'm reading i'm reading volumes of stuff on things that i need to decide on clinton did talk today to foreign leaders they were all very you know brief look forward to working with you conversations i talked to mr yeltsin president salinas prime minister mulroney [Music] prime minister major true to his vow to include al gore in everything gore has stayed in little rock for transition meetings rather than going home to tennessee we'll work through today and through tomorrow then we'll probably take the weekend off and hit it back monday morning another advisor said his farewells today clinton's top political strategist james carville joked that he would not trust a government that would hire him that makes him the only clinton aide not angling for a top job hey guys they didn't give me state i don't know what to say i quit clinton's staff wants him to keep his focus during the transition as he was during the campaign nbc news has obtained a clinton staff memo which he has not seen it advises him to focus on policy more than personnel claim a legislative mandate use executive orders to create a perception of action pick legislative priorities that will pass quickly and don't waste time on those that won't claim credit but don't waste energy on legislation that will pass anyway including democratic priorities such as family leave the abortion rights act

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family leave the abortion rights act and campaign finance reform clinton has also been told to learn from jimmy carter's mistakes you have to avoid coming up with too ambitious a legislative agenda which throws things on the congress which they can't properly digest and therefore gets your presidency off to a rocky start clinton met at length today with the man who helped him choose al gore former carter official warren christopher christopher will likely have a major job possibly head of transition tom thank you andrew john cochran is at the white house tonight as you can see where president bush today was at once exercising power and also mentally packing up the move out john was the latest in the trade business tom the president told his staff today to accept the fact that the focus now is all on bill clinton go next month but he sees no

reason to go now i have no plans to go to moscow but bush is still responsible for foreign policy and he can still make decisions affecting our lives such as today's go ahead for new tariffs on european imports that could triple the prices americans pay for a french chablis or a german riesling bush hopes to pressure europeans into lowering their tariffs on american farm products it's big news in europe a few moments ago i was uh informed that the united states have just announced retaliatory action but it is a very serious matter indeed and any trade war between europe and america would seriously damage the world economy now we're not engaged in a trade war just because we got some tough fighters over here on our side other than the trade talks bush has few decisions to make he has already refused to sign a tax bill meant to help inner cities like south central los angeles find money for urban programs but bush told an aide robert zelick to help clinton in the transition of power aides say bush is not angry at clinton

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aides say bush is not angry at clinton but there is anger at ross perot for his attacks on bush at retired admiral william crowl for supporting clinton and an iran-contra prosecutor lawrence walsh for what the white house claims is a witch hunt that hurt bush in the election some top republicans are urging bush to retaliate by pardoning former defense secretary kasper weinberger and other iran contra defendants the frustration in this white house is evident when the most animated conversations are about pardons instead of legislative or foreign policy initiatives tom thank you john cochran foreign policy of course is more than a phrase these days it translates into trouble hot spots in too many places around the globe and we've asked nbc's gary cottway tonight to take us through the many challenges eric tom bill clinton has had virtually no experience in international affairs in fact he ignored the subject for most of his campaign he cannot ignore it now when clinton spoke with boris yeltsin today russia's urgent need for help was clear the russian economy is ready to collapse under runaway inflation democracy is at risk what does clinton do and then there is the agony of bosnia as a candidate clinton early on called for tougher action to stop serbian ethnic cleansing but he has given no indication that as president he would commit american troops there in the middle east too there are familiar dangers saddam hussein celebrated george bush's defeat will he create an incident to test a young fresh american president the real challenge in the persian gulf may come not from iraq but the growing military power of iran and today iran's spiritual leader ayatollah ali khamenei warned clinton not to make human rights an issue with his country and then there are the new issues and challenges clinton will face those close to him expect human rights stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and trade to be high on his agenda

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and trade to be high on his agenda in asia clinton has denounced china's human rights violations but china is on its way to becoming a major economic and trading partner of the future for bill clinton a tough call between principle and pragmatism in china and elsewhere the clinton administration's foreign policy will be increasingly economic policy today there were warnings of a trade war with europe in the new year the free trade agreement with mexico negotiated by george bush will be voted on by a democratic congress will the democratic president push hard for its passage zbigniew brzezinski was the national security adviser of the last democratic president jimmy carter if he doesn't really perform effectively on the domestic front his international credibility is not going to be very high neither will america's and as a consequence his capacity for global leadership will be undermined in short what we will see under president clinton will be a merging of foreign and domestic concerns the two can no longer be totally separated as national security becomes economic security tom thank you gary next january george bush will finish one term as president and unless unless death intervenes there will then be five former presidents all alive according to my calculations we have had five living former presidents only once before in 1860 when james buchanan left the white house we live in an age of one-term presidents it wasn't always that way during the 30 years that began in 1932 americans lived through the presidencies of only three men roosevelt truman and eisenhower three presidents during the depression the second world war and the important post-war years in the next 30 years however americans lived through the presidencies of seven men six of those presidencies were troubled john f kennedy was assassinated lyndon johnson was forced out by the vietnam

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johnson was forced out by the vietnam war richard nixon had to resign gerald ford jimmy carter and george bush were defeated only ronald reagan served two full terms and his popularity isn't very high today aside from most of the reagan years it's been a jittery time for the presidency at a jittery time for the american people as presidents came and went half of the population grew up believing the president stayed in office for a long time the other younger half of the population sees a revolving door in the oval office that means our expectations of the presidency are lower presidencies don't seem as important as they once did especially when there are now five of them around thank you john bill clinton went for power today when he named the top of his transition team two influential warriors one from washington the other california one black one white washington lawyer and former urban league president vernon jordan and former deputy secretary of state warren christopher southern california nbc's andrea mitchell tonight in little rock clinton's choices are both highly regarded national figures not campaign officials that was intended as a strong signal of the kind of appointees clinton is seeking for his cabinet vernon jordan will be in charge of the transition and i'm honored and pleased to serve my friend bill clinton and our friend al gore warren christopher will run the day-to-day operation our first priorities is to help the president-elect clinton and senator gore to begin to choose the cabinet officers and the team that they will use or depend upon to run this government christopher had been rumored as a possible secretary of state but he said to assure objectivity he has taken himself out of consideration for myself i told governor clinton that i have assumed undertaking this role i would not have a major responsibility in the future jordan and christopher got high marks from clinton for the way they helped him

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from clinton for the way they helped him make his first big decision the selection of al gore to be his running mate clinton has said he will take his time about making other decisions but world events won't wait again today questions about the possibility of a trade war with europe well what he said is he's going to look at it right now he's not going to comment we have one president to clinton nothing is more important than the economy not even decisions he can make right away such as reversing the bush administration's ban on abortion counseling and family planning clinics luckily the governor has positions on uh choice that he's articulated throughout the campaign the number one priority is the economy and getting it moving until clinton decides who will get jobs in his administration his campaign staff is in limbo most are packing to go home as the trappings of his future office descend on the president-elect residents of little rock are discovering what folks in plains and kennebunkport learned their city will never be the same nor will life for clinton or gore but you christopher said today clinton will be creating an economic security council in the new white house and his first priority will be choosing his economic team andrea mitchell nbc news little rock big difference last saturday night the news was about electing a president tonight well tonight it's about a new president and what he faces at home and abroad questions about jobs about trade and russia about the future we begin in little rock where ed rabel is following the clinton transition from candidate to president ed good evening garrick the president-elect is here at the governor's mansion in little rock spending the first quiet weekend he's had in months and looking to regain his strength and his voice but even as clinton went out for a round of golf this afternoon pressure was on him to have the operation of forming a new government up and running here in

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a new government up and running here in little rock by monday warren christopher will manage the transition's little rock office vernon jordan was back in washington today working on his first tasks as chairman of the transition team it seems to me that this government ought to reflect the talents and gifts of all of our people would that include republicans that would include all americans tell us what you think today clinton reaffirmed his confidence in his team leaders they're great they do as good a job as this as they did helping me pick the vice president we'll have the best government in the history of the country the economy is obviously something that we will address first and foremost it is an urgent national priority you cannot fix

the economy without it [Applause] the need to develop a plan to spur the economy and create jobs quickly may mean clinton's top economic advisers will be the first appointments clinton insiders scorn most name lists but leaders for the crucial job of treasury secretary include roger altman the front runner used to be president carter's assistant treasury secretary robert rubin investment banker and fundraiser for democrats and former federal reserve board chairman paul volcker who is still in the running even though some see him as too independent according to transition experts sticking to the plan is as critical as choosing the right people for the top jobs we didn't let the agenda drift uh literally all over the all over the map we stayed we stayed very focused garrick uh the appointment of top economic advisors clearly is the first order of business of the transition team but with the trade war looming there are of course high expectations over who will be clinton's chief trade negotiator garrick thanks ed radel finally this evening on the night of his election triumph bill clinton spoke of the mystery of democracy how voters choose a new president but there's another mystery we're living through right now the transition from

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through right now the transition from clinton the candidate to clinton the president how will he do well what we and the president to be know or should know is why this election was particularly important four years ago we were not yet fully focused on the size of our domestic problems which were piling up four years from now the problems will be much worse solutions even more expensive that is what makes right now november 1992 unique the challenge is clear the priorities were established in the campaign the public understands them and a large majority voted for the candidates who promised action and change clinton and ross perel on election night vice president quayle said that if bill clinton quote runs the country the way he ran his campaign we will be all right but of course running for office is not the same as governing in office so how will president clinton do that is what we are about to discover and that is what he is about to discover it's all part of that mystery of democracy and that is our look at our world this saturday tomorrow morning on meet the press the guest will include vernon jordan chairman of the clinton transition team the last thing any new president wants is for the country to believe that he has instant answers for the big problems when he doesn't it only sets him up for a big fall after all and president-elect bill clinton is no exception today he talked about troubling signs in the economy and the need to organize an economic summit to get him ready for the white house nbc's andrea mitchell was in little rock tonight andrea tom after telling the country for 13 months that the economy is in terrible shape bill clinton will hold an economic summit to help him decide how to fix it clinton sees the summit as a way to reach out to business and government leaders beyond his immediate advisors i want to bring in some of the brightest people in the country from a broad range of backgrounds talk to them about the gravity of the situation deal with what our options are

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situation deal with what our options are and get some as many good ideas as i can do you think with the economy may be worse than you had anticipated of course the unemployment rate has held steady and actually gone down a little bit but underneath that manufacturing unemployment is up production is down there are a lot of very troubling signs in the economy clinton and gore say the economy is so important that they will create an economic security council inside the white house it was one of clinton's campaign promises i think we need an economic security council similar to the national security council with responsibility for coordinating our economic policy economic weakness and decline that we want to avoid at all costs it's our economic power that really is going to be more in question today and more a sense in competition in our military but it could create gridlock turf boards between the economic security advisor the treasury secretary and the budget director it's not clear what is supposed to be accomplished by creating a third layer so to speak of economic policy decision making inside the white house whenever you get several economists in a room it's hard to get agreement but we're going to do our best to try and outline the problems to see where consensus does exist clinton's most immediate decision will be whether to try to stimulate the economy through increased government spending that would enlarge the budget deficit and could scare financial markets worried about inflation one possible candidate for treasury secretary said clinton won't agree to a big spending plan i've worked with clinton now on this for more than a year and i over

that year he's shown a great deal of sensitivity to deficit reduction other clinton advisers are pushing in the opposite direction that's why financial markets are nervous as they wait to see what direction clinton takes tom thank you andrea one of the areas in which the clinton administration will have an immediate and instant impact is the federal judiciary judges more than 100 vacancies now exist on the federal bench and there's a great

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on the federal bench and there's a great deal of speculation about the u.s supreme court of course nina totenberg of nbc news and npr is a widely recognized authority on the court and nina it is often said that supreme court justices read the political returns just like everyone else given the makeup of this court will that have any effect well the immediate effect is that the court's not going to get any more conservative they're not going to be any more conservative appointees the short-term effect i guess also is that roe versus wade is safe the major holding of the abortion decision is safe but the court is still a very conservative institution uh even if we assume a few retirements there would be at least six conservative justices sitting there so it's going to stay a basically conservative institution you know what about uh term limits which is uh sweeping the country right now are they likely to be found unconstitutional well there's a remarkable unanimity on this question between liberal and conservative academics and scholars they all say or almost all of them say the term limits are unconstitutional the fact though is that we're not going to see a court test of this maybe till the turn of the century because most of these uh laws term limit laws don't go into effect immediately and you can't bring a court cast until somebody is actually harmed all right thank you very much nina totenberg we'll be hearing more from you in the months to come after his election that as president the problems just keep on coming tonight it's gays in the military an issue that will have to be resolved on his watch a federal judge in los angeles late today ruled the military ban on gays is unconstitutional this case involves a northern california sailor who is not allowed back on his base despite a court order our pentagon correspondent fred francis is with us tonight on this controversial issue and further his late word tonight the pentagon says it will reinstate at least the sailor but what about for the long haul well tom the pentagon will salute and accept a smaller military under bill clinton but it will not accept homosexuals without a fight

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without a fight right the case of keith meinhold a navy sonar expert on hunting submarines is proof of the pentagon's intransigence meinhold admitted he was gay and got kicked out he told today's katie couric he couldn't live in fear i was tired of having to look over my shoulder afraid that at any time somebody could accuse me of being gay whether or not they had any evidence of it last friday a federal court ordered him reinstated yesterday the navy refused the navy along with the other services says that gays are disruptive to good order and discipline on ships and in the ranks the services ignore the opinion of many that of 2 million men and women in uniform 1 in 10 may be gay the navy and the administration say gi's deserve privacy in such close quarters meinhol says that's nonsense not a reason to kick someone out they're supposed to follow the orders of the court and now we have a much bigger problem than allowing gays and lesbians in the military i would say the minehole case highlights what could be president-elect clinton's most difficult social issue he has promised to order the ban on gays drop once he's in the white house it seemed to me elemental that if a person a man or woman wanted to serve their country they ought to be able to do it but military leaders like general colin powell believe that sentiment against gays is so strong that clinton's promise will cause an uproar and wholesale resignations even clinton advisor retired joint chiefs chairman william crowell says he'll try to change clinton's mind but gays who overwhelmingly supported clinton say a promise is a promise i think he has demonstrated his support for gay and lesbian rights and we believe that he will overturn the military ban soon after he takes office nations like israel and holland accept gays in their ranks with all about the angst that's predicted here tom and fred what about the business of now the pentagon saying that he can be reinstated the judge saying that it is likely that he could prove all this is unconstitutional well first of all the pentagon has to do it for one day or two days until it can

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it for one day or two days until it can get to a higher court traditionally the federal courts have stayed out of the pentagon's business here they've always said that this is a sensitive area a different area of american culture and they've let the pentagon decide these things but all this can change in january with a stroke of a pen by bill clinton so the pentagon knows it's fighting a losing battle all right thank you very much fred francis tonight also today assistant secretary of state elizabeth tamposia was fired she was the official who supervised the campaign search of bill clinton's passport files and those of his mother personal military experience and on this veterans day he gave a military policy speech a major speech promising reforms spending cuts and a modern force to meet the demands of an uncertain world nbc's pentagon correspondent is fred francis fred tom clinton promised not to forget those who won the cold war the war with iraq and who now face an economic battle at home as the armed forces shrink and he pledged this would remain the world's strongest nation [Music] sounding very much like a commander-in-chief clinton told a veterans day crowd that it was still a dangerous world with the american gi as a possible policeman we need to invest more in airlift and sea lift we need to increase the facility and speed and confidence with which we can move our people because in this uncertain world we never know where we might be needed and there are flash points a persian gulf where thousands of u.s forces remain keeping saddam hussein in check and constantly checking on a hostile iran on his watch there may well be turmoil in cuba as castro tries to hold on to power north korea is developing a nuclear bomb the target 40 000 u.s troops there and the asian rim economy the ethnic cleansing which shocks the world in the former yugoslavia is ripe for u.s involvement clinton has not ruled that out the warlords in somalia have offered a horrifying look at a people's starvation the kind of suffering u.s forces could

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the kind of suffering u.s forces could swiftly end but clinton says he will take care of the new veterans here first a half a million who will be forced out of uniform he spoke of early retirement packages and opportunities to finish a military career at police departments and schools pete bishop is a navy lieutenant commander who knows his career might end abruptly he went back to school to learn how to teach bishop says his navy taught skills will make him an ideal science teacher clinton has endorsed a plan to reward tens of thousands who take the same path or convert their warrior skills to the marketplace we need them in solving economic problems and breaking technological barriers and solving environmental difficulties here at home and i will do my best for them senior officers said today clinton will be judged within the military not by promises but by how he deals with the divisive issue of homosexuals in uniform tom thank you for coming up again tomorrow when the navy under court order now reinstates a homosexual sailor clinton is expected to reverse the pentagon ban on gays in the military and as nbc's andrea mitchell tells us tonight from little rock that's just one issue on the gay rights agenda for the president-elect andrea tom bill clinton's support for gays and lesbians in the military is the most controversial aspect of his overall support for gay rights today clinton explained his support for a policy opposed by some of his own military advisors and many in the armed services i do not want in any way to condone any improper behavior the question here is simply status should people who have served their country with distinction many of them and with battlefield ribbons and who have never had any kind of question about their conduct race be booted out of the military clinton's election means a bigger change for gays and lesbians than access to military service throughout the campaign he supported gay

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throughout the campaign he supported gay rights and said he would not rule out homosexuals in his government we don't have a person to waste in america we spend too much time worrying about how to keep one another down and too little time worrying about how to lift each other up clinton said today one of the biggest differences will be attitudes i don't know that there'll be any that the policy differences will make as much difference as kind of the atmosphere i mean my view is that if people work hard obey the law play by the rules in this country we need them clinton does not support gay marriages he does believe gay couples ought to be able to inherit each other's property he supports legislation to prosecute hate crimes he has promised more money for aids funding and a top level aids coordinator clinton adviser robert hatoy an

aids sufferer spoke for him at the democratic convention bill clinton has made it clear that discrimination and bigotry have no role in his administration conservatives will fight clinton every step of the way so i think he's making a terrible mistake even to get into this area particularly in the early days of his presidency clinton's campaign received three million dollars from gay interest groups activists expect him to live up to his commitments we are now a bona fide voting bloc and major political force in american politics whether people like it or not clinton told people they were voting for change his attitude toward gay rights may be one of the biggest changes of all tom thank you andrea with us now as a well-known authority on military affairs retired army colonel harry summers now a commentator and author on military affairs colonel summers you were a highly decorated combat veteran would you object to homosexuals in your units well we've always had homosexuals in the military but in the old days at least they kept very quiet about it they didn't make sexual preference a big issue and and it really never came up now in this day of in-your-face confrontation i think it could be very very disruptive is that the issue in fact uh the overt

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is that the issue in fact uh the overt behavior on the part of homosexuals in your judgment i think so again based on experience in the past as everyone knows uh we've had homosexuals in the military for a long time but we haven't had this confrontational politics that is very much part of the gay and lesbian rights organizations today and i think as i said that would really make the big difference if in fact president-elect clinton signs an order saying that the military must accept homosexuals some senior officers are saying anonymously that the best of the military officers will leave in droves to quote one of them is that your judgment i don't believe so i think and i've lectured at the staff colleges and war colleges and this issue comes up quite often i really think the changes in american society are reflected in the military and the changes in attitudes toward gays in the civilian society has changed enormously and the military is going to have to adopt to these changes in civilian society as well is this on the same level with what we recently witnessed within the navy the whole issue of sexual discrimination and sexual harassment that there will have to be new training within the military oh i don't think so again if people keep their sexual preferences private as i think they should do i don't see why it should become a great issue but again if they want to make a confrontation out of it the confrontation will certainly be there do you think that that will if in fact that happens that will open up other activist groups for example ethnic minority groups of one kind or another or other groups will demand that they have a special place in the military well the military of course has to be homogeneous we have to pull together as a military otherwise almost by definition you don't have a military so all of these difference whether they're ethnic or sexual preference or whatever have to be subordinated to the larger mission and if people can't do that they have no business being in the military thank you very much colonel harry summers for being with us once again tonight nice to have you with us when we're not at war for nine days now it's a curious position to occupy to be and yet not to be and he's been deliberately low profile until today he was back at center stage

01:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=6240s)

until today he was back at center stage in his first formal news conference since the election nbc's andrea mitchell had a front row seat today in little rock andrea jane bill clinton made it clear that his first concern as president will be the same as the theme of his campaign the economy keeping al gore at his side to signal their partnership clinton was relaxed and confident as he described his first priority creating half a million new jobs in the first year through public works projects and tax incentives i will ask the congress to adopt on investment tax credit that i have been advocating for well over a year now uh to give the private sector incentives to go out and invest in new plant and equipment and do to increase their capacity to hire clinton picked his way carefully between those advising him to stimulate the economy with more government spending and other economists more worried about increasing the budget deficit i believe that what we have to do is to have a disciplined reduction in the debt so we send a clear signal to the markets at home and abroad that we're going to bring this deficit down but that we do it more gradually and with a framework which permits us to substantially increase investment you see i believe that we cannot balance this budget ever unless we can get more economic growth than we've got to lead his economic team during the

transition clinton has chosen harvard's robert rice who advocates more spending to jump start the economy my responsibility is substantive that is deciding and helping him decide and shape the economic package that he's going to present rice will be paired with the new domestic policy assistant al from of the democratic leadership council a more conservative adviser clinton rejected republican leader bob dole's suggestion that he does not have a mandate i think that the clear mandate of this election by the way from the american people was an end to

01:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=6360s)

from the american people was an end to politics as usual an end to the gridlock in washington an end to finger-pointing and blame i think there is no question that there was a mandate in this election clinton left no doubt that he will use that mandate he will reverse bush's order against abortion counseling at family planning clinics uh i don't believe in the gag rule and i think it should be repealed he will not turn back haitian boat people who prove they are political refugees i think that the blanket sending them back to haiti under the circumstances which had prevailed for the last year was an error and so i will modify that process he will reverse the ban on gays in the military but carefully i want to consult with a lot of people about what our options are including people who may disagree with me about the ultimate parents one of the most striking things clinton said is that he won't appoint cabinet choices until he rethinks the mission of each department so government under clinton may look very different jane thanks andrea while bill clinton repeated his intention today to allow gays to serve in the military it's a front burner issue now with a court ruling in favor of a gay naval officer fighting to be reinstated nbc's george lewis reports keith meinhold feels he made a bit of history this morning i think i will be the test case if you will for how the navy and the military in general is going to integrate gays and lesbians into the service as he reported for work at moffett field near san jose california meinhold was mobbed by reporters and photographers i'll be proud and honored to wear the uniform of my country once again a 12-year navy veteran meinhold had worked as a flight instructor until he was discharged in august that was after he went public with the fact that he is gay something he did he said because he was tired of living a lie i did not want to continue to look over my shoulder afraid that somebody could say that i'm gay meinhold's return to duty this morning got mixed reviews at the base

01:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=6480s)

got mixed reviews at the base opinion polls show most military people do not want to serve alongside gays and lesbians i don't i don't feel they belong in the military whatsoever to know that he might be gay and you might find me attractive or something like that that really makes me uncomfortable the human beings do their other sexual preferences you know shouldn't shouldn't make a difference the navy earlier indicated it would continue its legal fight against keith meinhold but now with president-elect clinton prepared to lift the ban on gays and lesbians in the military that fight would appear to be pointless but a pentagon official said this afternoon that nothing has changed i don't think we can change policy on the basis of speculation about what president-elect clinton may or may not do after he's inaugurated meinhold says come what may he'll keep up the battle to stay in uniform george lewis nbc news palo alto california bill clinton was in little rock today laying down the law on ethics for his transition team clinton wants to stop the washington revolving door between government power and private sector profit nbc's andrea mitchell reports bill clinton has said his white house will be different lobbyists won't have access to pedal influence after leaving office top officials won't be able to become hired guns for industries they used to regulate could you just tell us what signal you're trying to send i think i want to send a signal that we're going to change politics as usual transition staff members cannot lobby federal agencies for six months after the transition they are forbidden to ever use government information for personal gain the era is over when too many in washington sought to gain in some way from their access to power that's what every new administration says but it's not long before reality takes hold reagan aide michael deaver was the best known insider to get in trouble for trying to cash in during the republican years democratic

01:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=6600s)

during the republican years democratic counterparts could only watch from the sidelines the stories about mike beaver are giving influence peddling a bad name now boggs law partner to democratic national chairman ron brown is a cover boy himself transition chairman vernon jordan has pledged to stop working for corporate boards and law clients clinton advisor mickey cantor was passed over for a top transition job partly because he had brief clients about administration plans but today cantor was back in little rock getting a big hug from clinton senator do you think that new ethics rules can really change the way business is done in washington sure because they're being forced trying to implement guidelines for ethics in washington with an executive order or any other means is like trying to dam a creek with chicken wire the transition is delayed announcing a permanent ethics code for the new administration because putting clinton's promises into binding language is proving to be a lot more complicated than they'd thought andrea mitchell nbc news little rock now back in this country the transition from the bush to the clinton administration continues the fact that democrats will control the white house and congress will end twelve years of divided government but there may and will be problems between them still in little rock ed rabo tells us what clinton is doing about that good evening ed good evening garrett the president-elect clinton is not waiting for inauguration day to convince congress to take action on his agenda in the first 100 days he's in office he meets here this weekend with top congressional democrats clinton out for an early morning jog is moving swiftly to court congress in part to avoid the gridlock jimmy carter suffered when he alienated the lawmakers during his first hundred days governor clinton one of the prime principles of his campaign is we're going to break the gear like in washington and really get something done and the first step is to meet with your leaders in the in the house and the senate and talk about how we're going to do

01:52:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=6721s)

and talk about how we're going to do that clinton's skills as a consensus builder though formidable may be put to the test this weekend one leader coming here house speaker thomas foley says clinton cannot expect action on issues like health care to occur as quickly as he may want but it's not going to be accomplished in the first hundred days you're quite right it's going to take a significantly longer period than that there is something that's being thrust on clinton very quickly a drastic change in lifestyle clinton can't even run over to mcdonald's for a burger and some fries without the secret service and the press surrounding him no more power lunches at cotton's general store and restaurant because i couldn't handle the secret service and all the entourage that comes with him and a quick game of eight ball at this old haunt definitely is out he's a country boy at heart always will be and this will always be his home i hope so what's a burger kind of guy to do when he gets to washington good news mr president mcdonald's is just about a block away from the white house garrett clinton has invited speaker foley house majority leader dick gephardt and senate majority leader george mitchell to dine with him tomorrow night at the governor's mansion garrett thanks ed and the democratic leaders will have a lot on their plate starting with the economy and a plan to stimulate the recovery bill clinton's economic advisor on the transition team is harvard professor robert reich and today i asked him what the new president's economic policy will be there is uh going to be by january 20th a package of economic measures a budget a package of economic measures i'm going to help governor clinton president-elect clinton determine exactly what's going to be in that package and what is the single most important thing that bill clinton is going to have to do in the economic domain when he takes the oath of office on january 20. the big issue he has said over and over again and americans are counting upon him to do this the big issue is creating jobs getting back jobs job growth and getting

01:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=6840s)

getting back jobs job growth and getting the economy back on track uh once you get the economy back on track with regard to the current recession then you can roll up your sleeves and take on the bigger job the more ambitious job the more difficult job of improving the track education training research and development private sector investment and infrastructure making us a 21st century economy do you think it's likely or possible that the economy will be recovering to a point where this special package of stimulation will not be necessary come jack it's certainly possible eric in fact again if you listen to some of my friends on wall street who are quite bullish on the economy it may be that by january you don't need an extra stimulus but that

doesn't remember that doesn't remove the need for the long-term economic plan with regard to education training investment in infrastructure and private sector investment and also that long-term strategy for bringing down the budget deficit you've got to do that anyway regardless of how the economy looks in january regardless of your short-term strategy there is still a long-term strategy those decisions have to be made by president-elect come january president clinton robert rice thank you very much for being with us this evening thanks eric good to be here bill clinton dinner tonight is not your usual relaxed sunday affair instead it is a key meeting with the democratic leaders of congress the first since the election together they're supposed to end divided government and washington gridlock and yet democrats at each end of pennsylvania avenue have their own agendas their pet priorities and that can be a problem ed rabel is in little rock tonight ed good evening garrett president-elect clinton hopes that his dinner meeting here at the governor's mansion will produce agreement on his bold legislative agenda but even though all of the guests are democrats getting agreement will not be easy during his regular early morning jog today clinton made it sound simply now i think we're just going to have a meeting to kind of renew our acquaintance talk about our obligations look to the future

01:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=6960s)

about our obligations look to the future a little bit talk a little bit about next week when i go to washington in washington democrats will be in control of both the white house and congress but they are miles apart on some issues like the line item veto clinton wants the powerful tool because it would enable him to cut items from spending bills at his discretion for clinton the issue is a touchy subject governor governor why do you want the line item veto house speaker thomas foley has proposed an alternative that would permit item by item vetoes but the house and senate only would need a simple majority not two-thirds votes to override speaker foley suggested an enhanced precision proposal as an alternative to it it's not the line item veto it's something quite different and we're going to review that economic adviser robert rice met with clinton today to review the president-elect's most ambitious proposal economic recovery clinton's number one priority for congress in the first hundred days is expected to be economic recovery his challenge is to be reasonable about how much he tries to get through congress in those first hundred days whether or not it's done in the first hundred days exactly i don't think it's the important thing but it's important to show that you're going to get to work and get to work quickly eric we'll know tomorrow how well clinton was able to use his formidable consensus building skills on his dinner guests he scheduled a news conference for tomorrow morning with the democratic leadership the republicans in the white house president-elect bill clinton and democratic congressional leaders shared a three-hour dinner in little rock last night and at a news conference today they promised a new era of cooperation despite all that rosy talk however not all is signed sealed and delivered nbc's andrea mitchell in little rock tonight andrea some disagreements i gather have surfaced tom today they tried to emphasize the positive with a new era of divided government bill clinton and congressional democrats tried to set a new tone of cooperation they say the blame game is over when he first started running bill

01:58:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=7081s)

when he first started running bill clinton kept his distance from the scandal-plagued congress now he's treating the leaders like his new best friends i don't want a continuation of the cold war between the congress and the white house pennsylvania avenue will run both ways again gridlock is over and cooperation and teamwork have begun teamwork up to a point congress will have to approve a new military code if clinton carries out his campaign promise to permit homosexuals in the military but senate armed services chairman sam nunn a candidate for secretary of state opposes reversing the ban on homosexuals we ought to have thorough hearings and i also know because i've talked to him that president-elect clinton is going to talk to general powell about this he's going to talk to the joint staff about this he understands that there are people who have different views in fact most of clinton's military advisors disagree with his position i don't agree with the governor altogether but i'm an adviser the governor and he and i are going to talk about it today clinton did not back down but promised to consult with military leaders to develop a new code of conduct for gays and lesbians as long as there is a very strict code of conduct which if they violated would lead to dismissal

from the service or other appropriate sanctions clinton and the congressional leaders took steps to compromise on some of their other differences he won't press for a smaller congressional staff as he promised during the campaign they might permit him to eliminate programs he doesn't like without vetoing an entire bill their toughest challenge agreeing on health care reform what i have committed to do for more than a year now is to present a plan within 100 first hundred days i never said that i would be able to pass a health care plan that's the most complex of all the issues with which we must deal democrats in congress have not been able to agree on a health care plan and they say it will be a miracle if clinton comes up with one so quickly without controlling health care costs it will be very difficult for clinton to reach his goal of reducing the budget deficit

02:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=7200s)

goal of reducing the budget deficit tom since he won the election and the tour will only reinforce what he is already learning in little rock that is few presidential decisions are easy especially when it comes to the economy as clinton prepares for his oval office meeting with president bush his advisors are shaping up the new team and debating what comes first economic stimulation or reducing that huge federal deficit nbc's andrea mitchell again tonight in little rock andrea tom bill clinton's economic team met today to begin putting together the economic package that he has said is his top priority as clinton met with his transition board he denied that he is backing away from his promise of a middle-class tax cut if there's any substantial change i'll let you know but i've not known the decision to change clinton's economic advisors arrived today to start making tough choices how much to stimulate the economy through public work spending how much to cut the budget deficit it is a terribly serious problem and we've got to come to grips with it and that's why any economic policy that bill clinton has will include include serious deficit reduction clinton's team includes fiscal hawks arguing for deficit reduction and liberals who want more spending we have to invest in our economic foundations these sort of old foundations roads bridges schools economic advisor robert reich has to broker the differences and figure out how big the deficit really is there are rumors uh some of them from some very credible sources that they are leaving us with a truly big mess much bigger than anybody had anticipated clinton's economic plan assumed a deficit of 268 billion dollars next year the congressional budget office told congress today that the deficit will be more than 300 billion dollars because of delayed savings and loan costs clinton believes it could be even bigger than that what is the impact of the snl bailout on the budget deficit what kind of money is going to be needed right away to begin stopping the

02:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=7320s)

needed right away to begin stopping the administration clinton today chose former south carolina governor richard riley as head of personnel who will be in the cabinet is up to just these five people clinton al gore warren christopher vernon jordan and hillary clinton we just try to sit out here around this table every day and talk and she's part of it when clinton meets with president bush at the white house tomorrow will not be a social chat he said today he's hoping for a candid assessment of the problems he'll be facing topical there were two lessons in the use of power one here at the white house where president george bush welcomed president-elect bill clinton to begin a graceful transition of power the other just a few blocks from here where george bush's state department admitted an abuse of power an attempt to keep bill clinton from the presidency we'll begin tonight with a white house visit nbc's andrea mitchell is just across the park at the hotel where bill clinton is spending the night andrea tom bill clinton said the american people should be very pleased because he and george bush had what clinton described as a terrific meeting when george bush walked down to welcome bill clinton to the white house both men were ready to focus on the future not the pain of their bitterly fought campaign it was deliberately low-key no public statements but they spent twice as much time together as had been planned including an hour and a half alone in the oval office they also dropped in on a joint meeting of their aides to bless what bush said he hopes will be a smooth transition afterward clinton was clearly grateful for the tone bush established it was a terrific meeting the president was very helpful to me we talked about a couple of domestic issues and we talked about more than a dozen actual or potential trouble spots in the world still the governor clinton took time to lobby bush to speed up

new medicaid regulations to help states like arkansas burden by higher costs but foreign policy dominated their talks we talked about russia we talked about the other uh republics in the pharmaceutical union we talked about bosnia we talked about it as we talked

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bosnia we talked about it as we talked about somalia trying to demonstrate that he won't become a captive of official washington clinton then toured a working-class neighborhood of the city and was soon getting some free advice we have a lot of problems and i have many solutions to the problems if you could invite me to the white house sometime it looked like clinton was still campaigning for the job that's because he believes if he's going to succeed he has to sell his ideas like the need for community banks there are too many banks who really don't know how to make loans okay anymore to small businesses and to people starting out and starting businesses but the transition is not without some stress clinton is very upset about his family's loss of privacy take the issue of socks the cat despite a written warning said to be from the highest authority not to touch the cat photographers were still luring her with catnip chelsea clinton is unhappy about that and so is her dad tonight clinton's economic advisors are on capitol hill cracking the budget books tomorrow clinton goes to congress which holds the key to whether he can turn his ideas into reality tom thank you andrea at the same time today the acting secretary of state lawrence eagleburger formally apologized for the search of bill clinton's passport files and his travel records a search that was done solely to try to keep clinton clinton from the presidency we have our state department correspondent tonight john dancy on what happened today and the consequences john tom the investigation found that this was a state department operation the search was not directed from the white house the search took place here at a warehouse in suburban washington on september 30th on october 1st but it turned up no evidence that clinton had ever asked for dual citizenship to avoid the draft the state department said today the search was a disturbing attempt to influence the outcome of the presidential election that is a very heinous activity and shame on the department of state

02:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=7560s)

and shame on the department of state that it happened assistant secretary of state for consular affairs elizabeth tamposi a political appointee was fired for ordering the search in new hampshire today ms temposi stayed in seclusion she has maintained that an intermediary told her the white house wanted the information the state department inspector general said today he had no doubt the white house would have liked damaging information but did it order the operation implicitly or explicitly we have not a scintilla of evidence not a scintilla of evidence and acting secretary of state lawrence eagleburger emphasized that tamposia acted on her own there is no credible evidence to support the allegation that anyone in the department was acting at the direction of someone outside the department eagleberger said he offered to resign over the incident but president bush did not accept it eagleburger apologized to clinton the damage done to the governor if there has been any i apologize for it more fundamentally i apologize for the department being in this mess and eagleberger offered some advice for the next secretary of state it would be you'd better pick your people carefully so the incident has smeared the state department's name but there is nothing to tie the mess to george bush tom thank you john dancy well despite those assurances that the white house was not involved in any way it does remain president bush's state department and what happened today does not make his final days in office any easier i'm joined now by the nbc newsman who generally has this space all to himself john cochran john tell us tonight about the president's frame of mind these days tom despite reports that bush is depressed and sad his friends say he is recovering from his election defeat a defeat he really didn't expect even on election day bush may have been too optimistic about his re-election chances but he's living in the real world now knowing that a lame duck president has very little power there is some unfinished business especially this week's last-ditch talks

02:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=7681s)

especially this week's last-ditch talks between american and european negotiators as they try to avoid the trade war a war that could hamper clinton's efforts to jack up the economy while bush's aides look for a trade solution his wife is looking at houses in houston priced under one million dollars i plan to get very active in the grandchild business bush will also work on his presidential library and on his memoirs like other ex-presidents who have found that putting their spin on history is a lucrative way to keep busy richard nixon's foreign policy books also restored some of his reputation each year since 1980 i've been gaining in stature jimmy carter's good works as a peace negotiator and builder of low-cost housing one respect even from those who thought he was a weak president bush is undecided about his future but friends say he won't do what ronald reagan did soon after leaving the white house except the two million dollar fee for visiting japan while bush looks to the future he tries to joke about the what painful past adele stevenson said it hurts too much to laugh but too proud to cry bush says the transition period two and a half months is just too long well he may not like it but it does serve a purpose it enables bill clinton to have time to prepare and enables bush's aides to have time to look for a job tom thank you john america close up tonight promises campaigning is about making them governing is about keeping those promises or trying to and bill clinton made so many promises that even his friends that admires wonder about his ability to deliver nbc's robert hager tonight reviews the balance sheet promises promises he made so many in the campaign how can he deliver at the top of clinton's things to do list jobs and health care this country desperately needs a jobs program and my first priority would be to pass a jobs

02:10:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=7801s)

first priority would be to pass a jobs program to introduce it on the first day i was inaugurated the cost 20 billion dollars a year to repair roads bridges and tunnels as for health the first hundred days of my administration i want to present a plan to the congress to change this system to control health care costs and provide a basic package of health care to all americans the cost tba to be announced and there's more double federal spending on public schools apprentice programs for job training expand head start treatment on demand for drug addicts one hundred thousand extra police for cities page two high-speed rail between cities the space station freedom finance community banks for cities pay back dues to the united nations financial aid to russia and on and on the obvious question from a young supporter in new york last july you know it sounds real good and is making everybody happy but where are you getting all of this money from certainly not all from taxes clinton promised that only the rich would pay more i don't plan to raise taxes on middle-class families i want to lower their income taxes and give them some money to raise their kids on not only that clinton promised but he said the deficit would come down under my plan we would cut the federal deficit by more than 50 percent in the next four years no way says an independent budget analyst middle of the road in her politics carol cox weight on the real cost of the promises and my guess is that you're talking about at least 100 billion dollars a year added to a three hundred billion dollar deficit that's a lot of money other clinton promises which don't cost government money guarantee women's right to abortions restrict handgun sales sign a family leave bill for workers ban hiring replacement workers in strikes and on and on but now from little rock and the warm glow of victory where

02:12:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=7921s)

and the warm glow of victory where everything seemed possible to washington and a cold reality check where nothing's accomplished without arm twisting and compromise you can't do everything once you're elected that you talked about on the campaign trail and it isn't even wise to try to do so sometimes you have to say gee folks when i got here i found out the following list of things that mean we're going to have to defer this or scale that back carol cox waited others say clinton will have to establish priorities such as the economy promises aside they say to succeed he can't please everybody some will have to be disappointed robert hager nbc news washington back in a moment with more news and john chancellor's commentary tonight from washington to expect from a clinton presidency and that includes the folks across the river at the pentagon nbc's fred francis tonight on the military's expectations and reservations about this new president analysts are worried that clinton wants far more than he can deliver on future cuts in the armed forces he wants a force of 1.4 million 200 000 fewer than bush planned but he also endorsed expensive new systems

like the v-22 and he pledged the u.s forces would get new transports like the c-17 the problem is the numbers don't add up experts say he can't have new stealthy hardware like the b-2 bomber and 1.4 million gis he may have to look at active duty force structures below 1.4 million maybe down as low as 1.2 million the only way to pay for all that is to cut more soldiers faster that's the last thing joint chiefs chairman colin powell wants to consider further sure you can always cut further my judgment is only if the situation warrants not just for the sake of cutting second question comes up is can we do it faster my answer to that is fairly categorical no there is a limit to how fast you can bring down the force

02:14:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=8042s)

to how fast you can bring down the force without doing serious damage to this all volunteer force and there was an indication today that powell may bow to the inevitable on the issue of gays in the military choosing instead to use his influence on the issue of truth strength and not the troops sexual preferences it's a very big problem for us and it is not just the generals and the admirals who are saying it we're hearing we're hearing it throughout the force and so uh i'm pleased that the governor has expressed a willingness to approach this slowly and with caution and we look forward to the opportunity to work with him and with the new secretary of defense powell will make his best case then salute and follow orders others said powell hopes the orders come down after he retires fred francis nbc news the pentagon john chancellor was also in washington and he had these comments on the divided house of the gop to understand what the republican party is going through these days remember what the democratic party went through in 1968 the democrats had been in the white house for eight years and thought hubert humphrey would win the 68 election and hold the presidency for eight more years instead richard nixon beat humphrey by a whisker the democrats began fighting among themselves the left wing fought the moderates and it hurt the party during the next 24 years democrats managed to win only one presidential election today the republicans have been in the white house for three terms and they'd hoped for at least one more now in defeat they begun fighting among themselves just the way the democrats did 24 years ago the divide in the republican party is between conservatives and moderates and there's another dispute between the religious right and the secular wing of the party the religious issue broke into public view at the republican governors conference yesterday that fight could turn into a real shootout during the next few years and affect the nomination of the next

02:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=8160s)

and affect the nomination of the next republican candidate for president if the republicans repeat the experience of the democrats in 1968 the party will be controlled by zealots not centrists when the democrats went through that experience they nominated george mcgovern as their 1972 presidential nominee mcgovern carried only one state and lost by 18 million votes it happened to the democrats it could happen to the republicans the time when everyone in washington loves everyone else republican and democrat alike pledging to work together only in the best interest of the american public if the past is any guide however those pieties will drop away shortly after bill clinton is inaugurated on january 20th but for now he does have the undivided attention and the best wishes of even the opposition nbc's andrea mitchell is with us again tonight for day two of the clinton washington victory tour andrea tom bill clinton courted congressional power brokers today with promises of an open door and a bipartisan approach even before his breakfast on capitol hill clinton jogged across pennsylvania avenue to mcdonald's this used to be a fancy french restaurant it went belly up in the reagan years for clinton it's a way to keep in touch talk to 159 year old man who hadn't worked in three years and lost everything he had i talked to different kinds that's why i go at home you know you see a reasonable range in america different kinds of people than he will have to work with on capitol hill there's bird of west virginia the powerful appropriations chairman vehemently opposed to clinton's desire for the power to veto individual programs out of a larger spending bill and clinton's chief opponent senate republican leader bob dole we don't have any yet i've got to make some i guess we don't have to we have a great visit senator joel do you have any dinner today

02:18:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=8282s)

after suggesting two weeks ago that clinton's victory was not a mandate dole was being humble obviously we thank the speaker for the launch and i think senator mitchell when you're republican these days you take all you can get clinton's message the american people want action not excuses they don't expect miracles of us but they do expect progress and they do want us to work they want us to work together they want the finger pointing and the blame placing to stop clinton also met today with joint chiefs chairman colin powell who has disagreed with clinton on troop cuts and permitting gays in the military we didn't even know each other we never even met before and i thought it was high time we got to meet him again clinton showed his political style greeting tourists in the rotunda walking down the steps instead of jumping into a limousine telling people he will be on the hill much more often than his predecessors clinton may also be picking cabinet members from congress nbc news has learned that transition director warren christopher has asked senator lloyd benson if he'd be interested in becoming treasury secretary benson didn't shut the door but he said he's happy where he is and as finance chairman he could be more useful to clinton in congress than in the cabinet tom thank you andrea now let's go to nbc's lisa myers who can tell us that once the lunches are over about the realities between this new president and the congress come january lisa tom despite today's love fest come january clinton will face some hard realities among them 315 democrats used to calling their own shots even before clinton arrived at the capitol congressional leaders had rejected his proposal to cut congressional staffs by 25 percent i don't think 25 percent in one year is appropriate or can be done clinton quickly backed down apparently deciding that this largely symbolic issue wasn't worth a fight i'm going to cut 25 percent from the from the from the white house staff and

02:20:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=8401s)

from the from the white house staff and continue to work with congress the president-elect has been advised he may face two major fights early in his administration first his economic package house speaker foley has warned that congress may be more concerned about the budget deficit than clinton realizes some democrats are urging clinton to scrap his middle class tax cut others can't support a stimulus package that increases the deficit even temporarily there are a lot of people on the hill both democrats and republicans that won't that won't vote for such a package clinton's first key battle could come by late february when he'll have to pass legislation letting the government borrow more money democrats and republicans say they won't support that unless it includes a serious deficit reduction plan and the house budget chairman says the deficit plan clinton outlined during the campaign is not enough part of the problem was he didn't anticipate that it was going to be as serious as it really is issue number two health care there are 136 bills in congress and no consensus on which way to go or how to pay for it today a key player questioned whether congress can even pass health care reform in the next two years i wouldn't predict until i see three months of activity here in in the legislative process as to whether or not we can do anything the senate majority leader was only slightly more optimistic asked if congress would pass health care reform he said i hope so tom thank you lisa what has been clear from the beginning of the clinton campaign is that hillary clinton likely will rewrite the role of first lady she's smart she's tough and she has keen political instincts just what any president would want in an advisor but is the country ready for a presidential wife as advisor nbc's bob kurt tonight like anyone checking out a new home hillary clinton must have had many questions for barbara bush when they met today at the white house but at the end of an election year in which she became an issue

02:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=8520s)

which she became an issue the question many americans are asking is what kind of first lady will she be involved participating this week in meetings of the president-elect's key transition advisors she does not take the role as as wife uh she takes the role as as as participants a player not only greeting congressional leaders when they met with mr clinton this week but a seat at the table too mrs clinton at the table with you she was stayed the whole time stayed the whole time thanks governor talked a lot knew more than we did about some things no surprise that their first event together in washington this week was a banquet for the children's defense fund a group she once worked for there is a role for each of us as there is for every adult in this country to do better for our children and our youth other first ladies have been influential behind the scenes but as she drove herself around little rock this week hillary clinton seemed ready to be more public

about steering things her way you know i've drafted legislation i've testified about legislation i understand how the pieces of a budget fit together things that i can bring to the table in trying to implement an agenda on behalf of children that i think will be beneficial during the campaign their own polling revealed that voters thought hillary was in the race for herself intent on running the show so she was kept in the background for months still clinton said he relied heavily on her for advice and after election day a behind-the-scenes story revealed her role as a key strategist on everything from clinton's message to personnel as first lady some say she'll have to walk a fine line a strong first lady who um involves herself too deeply in policy when she's not elected will not be well received by the american people

02:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=8640s)

well received by the american people bill clinton used to tell campaign crowds that if they voted for him they'd get hillary too if this week is any indication that's one promise that will be kept bob kerr nbc news washington washington today for his commentary talking about the protest vote almost one in five it's party time in washington not just the parties that are part of the inauguration but time for the democratic party to brag about its new president and time for the republican party to brood about its future except that this year there's a difference 19 million differences to be exact that's the number of votes that were cast for ross perot and they had nothing to do with either the democrats or the republicans that's a huge number of votes that were cast against the republican and democratic party candidates ross perot spent upwards of 60 million of his own dollars to promote that vote and there was no national parole party no national party convention no real party platform only 19 percent of 101 million votes that's the kind of showing that keeps professional party people awake all night or troubled when they sleep the perot showing could turn into a nightmare for traditional party politics perrault did it as a true outsider no federal matching funds no traditional campaigning only a lot of television much of it free and much of it purchased but no party affiliation perot even fired the political advisors he'd employed the feeling here in washington is that perot's vote was limited because of his bizarre behavior not because of his plan a better candidate might actually win with a no party plan like that someday and that's what is haunting the party people these days the mother and the lingering pain of defeat and he still has almost nine weeks to serve in the white house how will he spend those final days well a smooth and gracious transition is important but there are things to do we've seen how the president stood up to european pressure and yesterday got an agreement heading

02:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=8760s)

and yesterday got an agreement heading off a trade war next month he can sign the free trade agreement with mexico rather than leave it to bill clinton bush strongly supports the treaty clinton supports it so why shouldn't the president put his signature on it for posterity and then there is vietnam as we've seen again this evening the vietnamese have given full access to americans investigating the mias and many say it's now time for the united states to respond president bush could ease the trade sanctions against vietnam and keep the process of reconciliation moving ahead it may be tempting and understandable for a president on his way out to count the days and do nothing but here are two ways george bush can act to leave his mark on history and actually help his successor and there are still 60 days in which to do it and that is our look at our world this day i'm garrett gutley good night for all of us at nbc news those numbers and others of course will get a thorough airing at an economic summit that bill clinton's team announced today december 14th and 15th in little rock what clinton is finding it's one thing to campaign on the economy it's another to fix it nbc's andrea mitchell is in little rock tonight andrea tom bill clinton is hoping that the economic meeting will help him shape his economic program and start selling it to the public even before he takes it to congress in advance of the conference clinton and al gore are beginning to zero in on economic decisions and cabinet choices after today's job clinton interviewed a prospective treasury secretary senator lloyd benson of texas as senate finance chairman benson would be acceptable to wall street and unlike some other contenders knows clinton well could be counted on to be a team player clinton would like to have his economic team in place before his mid-december economic meeting it is going to involve both an assessment of where we are as a

02:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=8880s)

assessment of where we are as a country and input of course from a wide diversity of folks elected officials need not apply none will be invited clinton campaigned on a promise to spend 20 billion on public works and other investments every dollar in new jobs for america and environmental technologies and new transportation and new communication technologies george bush and congress already approved new highway spending and many transportation officials feel not much more can be spent quickly or usefully and if the economy keeps picking up steam more spending would only cause inflation still the clinton people say they are committed to economic stimulus we still have a lot of long-term structural problems in the economy that we have to address i don't think that even though we're very heartened by the consumer confidence numbers today and we think that you know it's good to see after the election we still have we still need a significant economic package but on capitol hill powerful committees are waiting to turn economic stimulus into old-fashioned pork expensive waterways and unnecessary public works projects that's an enormous problem for the new president-elect i think congress is going to want to try to steer all that money to its own uses and do it to special districts clinton thinks he can avoid pork by picking projects recommended by state and local governments try telling that to the appropriations chairman who are used to having their way on capitol hill tom andrea are you hearing much discussion down there about the deficit what's going to be done about that that is the 300 billion dollar question tom they know they have to do something about the deficit they promised it in the campaign and they also have to reassure wall street but so far they have yet to come up with a credible deficit reduction program tom thank you andrew president-elect clinton today wrapped up a four-day california vacation with a round of golf before heading back to little rock to continue work on the transition our washington bureau chief and moderator of meet the press tim russert tim tonight it looks like there are no major announcements this week but next week the rush begins i gather

02:30:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYHVpEnJeEs&t=9001s)

week the rush begins i gather i think tom a week from today we'll probably see the economic cluster secretary treasury budget director economic security advisor and chairman of the council economic advisors all appointed is this a tightly held process at this time tim very tightly held time there's a room called the east conference room in the governor's mansion in little rock they have a small round table around it sits bill clinton hillary clinton warren christopher al gore and a fellow named bruce lindsay an attorney friend of bill clinton's lifelong friend and vernon jordan whenever he's in town head of the transition it looks like now tom two leading contenders for secretary of treasury senator lloyd benson of texas chairman of the finance committee and new york investment banker bob rubin paul volcker who had been talked about widely is receiving a lot of negative feedback from capitol hill for his so-called independence for budget director it looks like alice rivlin for economic security adviser it looks like robert reisch of harvard again tom a week is is forever in this business we should also remember that bill clinton when he was picking his vice presidential candidates had several people down there walking away thinking that they had the job uh leaving listener with a clear impression that they had been anointed uh but this process now is coming to an end uh he has to do it early next week tom because as you know two weeks from today is the economic summit in little rock he wants to have his team in place by that date and tim we should expect some surprises as well as always bill clinton has pulled those throughout the course of the campaign there are a few dark horses but as as we get closer to this economic summit tom he has to make his decisions relatively soon we think a week from tonight all right thanks very much tim russert tonight

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